

**GROUP ARTICLE RESEARCH**  
**REPORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

**Supplement for Unit 8: Getting Started on Writing and Unit**  
**9: Getting the Writing Right**

*Assignment intentions:*

In the interest of building your capacities in essay composition, you will embark in the coming weeks improve in your ability to construct arguments, develop academic skills in organization information, and compose a fully formed argumentative paper with a stack of assigned articles related to a controversial topic to guide you. You will also engage in a **collaborative, group effort** to compose an 8-page paper of 2500 words in length (not including reference page). This paper should be partially argumentative with summarizations of an assigned stack of articles on particular controversial topic from a list your group may choose from. It will be an **intensive process over several weeks** in which you follow all of the steps of the writing process described in class.

*Submission of segments:*

When I requested submission of everyone's best writing, most hadn't composed more than simple IELTS paragraphs. Hence, I want to check in with you periodically to see how writing is coming along and will expect you pass through all phases of the writing process. Deadline for each class shall be the evening before class meets in the following week (i.e. the first part will be due 5pm the day before we meet next week. Here are the parts to be submitted:

*First part: Thesis sentence brainstorm and outline list: For this segment you will practice writing various types of thesis sentences and paragraph outlines (due wk of 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April)*

Below is an example outline. In your groups you must prepare FOUR different possible outlines with possible thesis sentences. Try to choose DIFFERENT essay types.

#### Outline

Thesis: Same sex couples should share the same civil rights as heterosexual couples. It should not sound or be treated like a privilege, but rather be of right to any man or woman to marry another person who they love and want to spend the rest of their lives with.

- I. Introduction
  - A. Personal
  - B. Family and Friends
- II. Same sex couples vs. interracial couples
- III. Publicly Celebrating
- IV. Church vs. State should be separate
- V. Legislature granting gay marriage
- VI. Closing

*second part: Final outline and annotated APA bibliography (due wk of 24-28 April after midterm). By this time you will have a stack of source material you find (plus articles provided by me). Select key quotations and pull together the sections of your essay.*

*Third part: First draft due 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May ;*

***\*\*Fourth part final draft due 8-12<sup>th</sup> of May\*\****

### ***Topic Selection:***

You will be able to choose from the following controversial topics and associated oppositional positions. Because your access to databases is limited, I will assign articles you will summarize and use to suppose your positions:

#### **TOPIC (1) Animal Rights and experimentation:**

Position A: animals are treated in cruel and unusual ways in the laboratory setting for the purpose of testing unnecessary cosmetics products used for human beatification. Such experiments are immoral and should be outlawed by international law.

Position B: Animal experiments may cause suffering but the improvement of human quality of life and development of pharmaceutical takes a much higher priority.

#### **TOPIC (2) Feminism**

Position A: Men have more power and opportunity than women in society

Position B: Society is increasingly equal.

#### **TOPIC (3) Possession of fire arms (gun control)**

Position A: China's government should have strict laws and only allow military or police to possess firearms.

Position B: A well armed populace is necessary to defeat tyranny.

#### **TOPIC (4) LGBT rights**

Position A: Traditional Chinese beliefs about family are of integral importance and take precedence over LGBT

Position B: LGBT are humans and must be granted basic rights to marry, be free from discrimination when finding a job and can contribute to society, raise children, etc.

### **TOPIC (5) Herbal remedies**

Position A: Natural medical treatments are more safe and effective and should be favored over western medical practice.

Position B: Western bio-medical models are empirically validated and always preferred over nontraditional methods of treating disease.

### **TOPIC (6) Diet and Nutrition**

Position A: Food companies have a moral obligation to keep carcinogens and dangerous chemicals out of the food supply

Position B: The consumer is responsible for his or her own nutritional choices.