

## Unit 4: Position Paper

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ 3-5 pages (on line 2 of page 3)
  - ✓ 12 font (times new roman)
  - ✓ One inch margins
- ✓ Focused and clearly stated thesis statement (**in bold font**) that is arguable based on research
  - ✓ Works Cited page with properly formatted (MLA) in-text citations

### Debate Essay Rubric

		AT STANDARD	BELOW STANDARD
<b>Content</b>	Facts/CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adequate facts/details/examples to support the thesis statement</li> <li>▪ Facts support the purpose of the paper; no random or unrelated material</li> <li>▪ Arguments/commentary are well supported with facts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facts/details/examples do not relate to thesis</li> <li>▪ Not enough facts to support the thesis</li> <li>▪ Extraneous or loosely-related material detracts from the purpose of the paper</li> <li>▪ Arguments and/or commentary are not supported with facts</li> </ul>
	Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes the right ratio of facts to commentary</li> <li>▪ Commentary elaborates upon facts to show their importance, relevance, and connection to arguments and thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Too many facts, not enough commentary to connect facts to thesis statement or topic sentences</li> <li>▪ Commentary fails to connect facts to thesis and arguments</li> <li>▪ Commentary does not elaborate on facts provided; importance and relevance of facts are unclear</li> </ul>
	Opposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses opposing viewpoints with cited facts that are well explained</li> <li>▪ Responds effectively to opposing viewpoints with counterarguments which include cited facts and thorough explanation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not mention opposing viewpoints</li> <li>▪ Mentions opposition but lacks cited evidence</li> <li>▪ Addresses but does not respond to opposing viewpoints</li> <li>▪ Lacks cited facts and explanation in counterargument</li> </ul>
<b>Organization</b>	Intro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction catches the reader’s attention</li> <li>▪ Introduces topic to reader</li> <li>▪ Introduction transitions from hook to thesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No attempt to catch attention of the reader</li> <li>▪ Fails to introduce the topic to reader</li> <li>▪ Little or no transition to thesis</li> </ul>
	Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each argument connects to thesis statement with clear topic &amp; concluding sentences</li> <li>▪ Ideas build on each other with transitions from one to the next</li> <li>▪ Common topics are in cohesive paragraphs</li> <li>▪ Sequencing of ideas is logical; details fit where they are placed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arguments fail to connect to thesis statements</li> <li>▪ Topic sentences are lacking or ineffective</li> <li>▪ Concluding sentences are lacking or ineffective</li> <li>▪ Ideas do not connect; no transitions between them</li> <li>▪ Paragraphs lack common topics; ideas are scattered throughout</li> <li>▪ Order of topics or ideas confuses reader; things do not fit</li> </ul>
	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conclusion reminds reader of call to action &amp; thesis</li> <li>▪ Relates conclusion to introductory hook</li> <li>▪ Satisfying conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of closure and resolution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concluding sentences are Conclusion does not relate to thesis</li> <li>▪ Does not remind reader of call to action</li> <li>▪ Conclusion does not effectively tie the paper together; leaves the reader hanging</li> </ul>
<b>Style</b>	Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Word choice is appropriate to topic, purpose, and audience</li> <li>▪ Writing is done to express not to impress</li> <li>▪ Word choice enhances readability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vocabulary is inappropriate for topic; does not include topic specific language</li> <li>▪ Word choice does not fit purpose or audience</li> <li>▪ Writing is done to impress not to express; big words used for the sake of big words</li> <li>▪ Uses slang and/or clichés</li> </ul>

	Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Writes clear, complete sentences that vary in length and structure</li> <li>▪ Sentence structure and errors don't detract from comprehension &amp; readability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence structure errors impact comprehension and readability</li> <li>• Sentences are: choppy, fragmented, run-ons, rambling</li> </ul>
	Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tone of the writing is appropriate to topic, audience, and purpose</li> <li>▪ Author's connection to the topic is evident, sincere, and appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tone of the writing is too conversational</li> <li>▪ Author seems uninvolved or distanced from topic, purpose, and/or audience</li> <li>▪ Author is too involved in the topic; it's impossible to see other viewpoints</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spelling is usually correct, even on more difficult words</li> <li>• Punctuation is correct and enhances readability in all but a few places</li> <li>• Capitalization is thoroughly understood and consistently correct</li> <li>• Grammar/usage is correct and contributes to clarity and style; meaning is more than clear; piece is engaging and inviting to read</li> <li>• Very little editing is needed to publish; author can successfully manipulate conventions for stylistic effect; meaning is crystal clear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spelling is too frequently incorrect</li> <li>• End punctuation is inconsistent. Internal punctuation is too frequently incorrect</li> <li>• Capitalization is applied inconsistently</li> <li>• Proper grammar/usage remains inconsistent; problems are serious enough to impact readability</li> <li>• Too much editing is still needed to publish</li> </ul>

Process required:

- \_\_\_\_\_/15 Pre-write that shows thought and preliminary organization of ideas, including t-chart
- \_\_\_\_\_/15 Intro and Conclusion (Bookends)
- \_\_\_\_\_/15 Contentions/Body Points 1-3
- \_\_\_\_\_/15 hand-written rough draft 1
- \_\_\_\_\_/15 Typed rough draft 2
- \_\_\_\_\_/15 Peer conference
- \_\_\_\_\_/75 Final typed draft, double-spaced, times new roman 12 font, 1 inch margins (content, mechanics/MLA)