**THE ROGERIAN ARGUMENT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

**Length: 8-10 pages**

**Research Sources: 10 sources, 7+citations**

**The Task:**  You will use the topic that you have already used for your Classical argument and restructure the argument into the Rogerian form of argument and APA style format. You have already done a great deal of research on this topic, and you should still be able to use that research. However, you will probably need to do **further research into your “opponent’s” life and his/her/their viewpoints.** The person you are writing to must be alive, currently employed, in a political office, or have the “power” to bring about change. This person must be in opposition to your stance.

**Structure**

**TITLE PAGE:**

APA format includes a title page (**which won’t count toward the page count of your essay**). Your header is only the page number.

**Title of the Paper: Remember to Capitalize Words With Four or More Letters**

(triple-spaced)

Your Name

Department of English, Name of College or University

English 1302: Rhetoric and Composition

Professor’s Name

Month Day, Year

**Title of the Paper: Remember to Capitalize Words With Four or More Letters**

Dear First Name Last Name (Identity who this person is/job title/position, etc.),

**INTRODUCTION (This will actually start on page two [2]): This paper should be written in the form of a letter addressed to someone who would oppose your argument, but someone who has the “power” to bring about change if you are able to convince/persuade him/her/them.** Unlike the classical argument, Rogerian arguments should be written in 1st person point of view. Introduce your problem/issue. Provide a brief history of the issue, but avoid discussing the controversy. Instead, present the issue as one that needs a solution, and raise the possibility of **positive** change. **DO NOT include your thesis statement in the introduction.** Encourage your opposition to engage in a discussion with you. Acknowledge the person you are writing to and explain why you have chosen to write to your person. Format reminder: don’t forget to add your title (centered and bolded) to the second page but **only** the second page of your essay.

**SUMMARY OF OPPOSING VIEWS:** In this section, you will discuss the opposing side’s viewpoint. Be accurate and neutral as possible. Don’t dismiss or insult their arguments or points. You need to prove to the opposition that you understand their view. Relate both the **reasons** the opposition has for their stance and the **evidence** in support of those reasons. Somewhere in this section, you should include a **Statement of** **Understanding**; this is where you demonstrate that you are listening, and you understand their side of the issue.

**STATEMENT OF YOUR POSITION:** After proving that you understand the other side, explain your views. Explain why you think the way you do and include both your **reasons and evidence**. Your Classical argument will provide you with assistance in this section. Watch your tone (diction) when stating your position. You don’t want the opposition to feel that you are attacking their beliefs. During this section, you should emphasize areas of **common ground** between you and your opposition. This section is referred to as a **Statement of Contexts** in which you show that you understand that there are situations in which the opponents’ views are valid. Do not concede that their views are always right, but recognize those conditions (contexts) under which you share their views.

**STATEMENT OF BENEFITS: (Compromise)** Appeal to your opponent’s self-interest by showing how he/she/they would benefit from accepting your view. You probably won’t get him/her/them to concede his/her/their argument completely, but you might be able to persuade the opposition that the two of you can reach some type of agreement. This section is where you present a compromise. This compromise should be “doable,” realistic, and plausible. Include the benefits of compromising. Show the reader that you are capable of compromising; therefore, he/she/them will be inclined to compromise.

**CONCLUSION:** The essay should conclude with your thesis stated in a positive manner. You should remind your reader of the benefits of compromising and meeting in the middle.

**References (new page)**

**(As with the classical, this does NOT count toward your page count.)**

* **References** is centered and bolded. (no quotation marks)
* Follows APA guidelines for format and individual citation entries
* Begins on a separate page and is double-spaced/alphabetized.
* Matches parenthetical documentation.
* No more than 10% of your paper should be quotes—it could lead to a failing grade!

Reminder: The easiest way to get a failing grade on this assignment is to attempt to resubmit your classical argument essay with only a few changes. Your paper should be completely restructured.