

**AP ENGLISH POSITION PAPER (70 pts.)**

**AP English 12 -- Wallenberg & Olson**

**(rev. term 4 2007)**

For this paper you must develop a five-page persuasive position paper for a target audience. Your paper will include information and details from a variety of appropriate authoritative sources handled logically and ethically and tailored to your particular audience. Be very practical in terms of what you want your audience to do as a result of reading your position paper. It's best to have concrete action(s) in mind such as passing particular legislation or changing specific behavior.

- Be very practical in terms of what you want your audience to do as a result of reading your position paper. It's best to have concrete action(s) in mind such as passing particular legislation or changing specific behavior.
- Remember to include and understand the arguments for other points of view regarding your position. You are required to not only clearly outline the arguments/reasons which would help persuade your audience of your position but also to clearly include and refute the arguments/reasons your opposition would potentially use to try to dissuade your audience from adopting and acting on your position. Other positions must be fully, fairly, and respectfully considered.

**To be effective, your paper must deal effectively with other viewpoints.**

- Avoid logical fallacies and propaganda devices.
- Begin to look for controversial topics which may work for this paper. Once you have established a few ideas for your topic, keep careful notes on it and look for outside sources which give further insight and discussion of your topic choice. So that none of your research work is wasted, do some general subject area research before settling upon an audience and persuasive purpose. Be organized in your note-taking of both information you would like to use from your sources. You will be held to the highest standard in documentation and citation of sources.

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1. This paper must clearly develop a position so that the reader has no doubt as to the preferred course of action.
  2. Provide sufficient details, information and data to support your position. Consider the various types of support that will work most effectively with your particular audience.
  3. The argument should develop logically and effectively while taking the audience into consideration.
  4. The argument should reflect a fair, respectful understanding of other positions. Remember that any reasonably well-informed audience will know the counter arguments.
  5. Information should be drawn from a variety of authoritative sources. If a web site is used, its credibility must be well-established. Any number of print analog sources (database postings of articles originally appearing in print form) may be used in the paper.
  6. Print-outs of all online sources must accompany the paper with information and passage used highlighted. Expect to provide photocopies of material from your sources.
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1. Sentence structure and length should be varied.
  2. Avoid overuse of passive and linking verb sentences.
  3. You are to assume your own voice but still maintain the usual formalities (avoid "taboo" words, colloquialisms, slang, clichés and other such expressions that would tend to make your paper less sophisticated) of a research paper. The tone used to address the audience should be suitable and effective for the persuasive purpose and the audience. Be neither too familiar nor too dry and "academic." Your sincere desire to persuade the audience should come across clearly.
  4. The paper must reflect a **sophisticated tailoring of message to a clear audience** implied through elements such as diction, details and style. Your audience must be taken into strong consideration.
    - One idea might be to write the paper as if it were to be read as a speech or some type of address to your target audience. For example, you might write the paper in the form of a graduation address directed toward engineering students.

- Another idea might be to write the paper as an essay to be published in a specific type of magazine geared toward the audience who would, in your mind, best benefit from your message. For example, there are magazines geared toward people who have strong interests in medicine or parenting.
- Yet another idea might be to attach a cover letter to your paper explaining your intent and why the person/people receiving the letter should take your position seriously and thereby be called to action.

**+1 Use at least 5 of our class vocabulary words. Highlight/box them in!**  
**+1 to +3 Contact your target audience.**

**After your paper is graded and the buybacks are finished, prepare an error free copy of your position paper, type a cover letter, place both in a correctly addressed 8 1/2 by 11 envelope and submit all of them to your teacher. You may also want to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a personal reply.**

1. Five pages (typed, New York or Geneva font, 12 point)
2. Paragraphs (sections) should clearly contribute to the unity and coherence of the paper.
3. The paper must demonstrate control of conventions that is skilled in nuances and enhances the paper's purpose as well as employ varied prose strategies.
4. Observe all MLA manuscript form requirements.
5. **The week prior to the paper due date, you might be required to submit:**
  - a preliminary thesis statement with a listing of the major arguments you are using as well as the arguments you will refute from the opposing viewpoint
  - one draft print out with written revisions/notations showing evidence of editing
6. You will be asked to do three separate "spot" documentation checks, which will be included in the grading. When you turn in your paper, you must submit photocopies or print-outs of ALL sources used in your paper with the specific parts of the information you used highlighted right on your photocopies/print-outs. These sources would be checked carefully in **three ways**:
  - that you have understood and used the sources' information correctly
  - that there is no evidence of plagiarism
  - that you have followed the correct MLA requirements in citing of these sources
  -

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT AN EXCELLENT AP POSITION PAPER CONTAINS**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>content</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper uses varied, precise, and significant evidence which fully develop the thesis in subtle, sophisticated, and memorable ways.</li> <li>• Wide-ranging and effective engagement and refutation of opposing arguments is handled with confidence and courtesy.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>style</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization is undeniably present, naturally complementing and enhancing content.</li> <li>• The position is developed with precise, subtle word choice which conveys the complexities of the author's argument and perfectly suits the target audience.</li> <li>• Sentence structure clearly establishes a sophisticated voice, style, and tone appropriate to the stated position and audience.</li> </ul> |
| <b>conventions</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper demonstrates flawless control of writing conventions that is skilled in nuances and enhances the paper.</li> </ul>   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hr. \_\_\_\_\_ Due date: \_\_\_\_\_

(rev. term 4 2007)

## AP POSITION PAPER GRADING SHEET

What worked? What didn't? What challenged you? Of what are you proud? What might you have done differently? What have you learned? Share what you'd like. WRITE YOUR RESPONSE BELOW:

\_\_\_\_\_/40 **CONTENT**

### \_\_\_\_ 1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING COMMENTS

5

\_\_\_\_ Overall effectiveness of the intro/opening remarks

-1 to -2 • interesting, engaging, unique, attention-getting

\_\_\_\_ Purpose statement clearly states the position as written below:

-1

Write your position statement here:

\_\_\_\_ Clarity of appeal to specific audience described below:

-1

Define/describe your specific audience here and why you chose this audience:

\_\_\_\_ Purpose statement focuses on specific, concrete, measurable action

-1

What concrete action are you hoping for as a result of the audience adopting your position? Explain here:

### \_\_\_\_ 2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION/SOURCES

10

\_\_\_\_ Information well-suited to the persuasive purpose

-1 to -4 • The paper uses varied, precise, and significant evidence which fully develop the thesis in subtle, sophisticated, and memorable ways.

\_\_\_\_ Information from reliable, authoritative and up-to-date sources

-1 to -2

\_\_\_\_ Information from a variety of sources

-1

\_\_\_\_ Sources are mixed, overuse of one source and/or one-at-a-time avoided

-1

**3. LOGIC/ARGUMENTATION**

10

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Paper is organized logically, naturally complementing and enhancing content.**  
-1 to -3
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Argument builds convincingly throughout.**  
-1 to -2
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Information/details clearly connected and logically linked to the argumentation**  
-1
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Logical fallacies and propaganda devices are avoided**  
-1 to -2
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Opposing viewpoints are dealt with fully, fairly, and effectively**  
-1 to -2
  - Wide-ranging and effective engagement and refutation of opposing arguments is present and handled with confidence and courtesy.

**In the boxes below, jot down your major arguments/reasons as well as those of the opposing side.**

ARGUMENTS WHICH SUPPORT YOUR THESIS	ARGUMENTS FOR THE OPPOSING SIDE

**4. CONCLUSION**

5

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Paper transitions smoothly into conclusion**  
-1
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Reviews fully the major arguments in support of the position**  
-1
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Closing statements logical and conclusive**  
-1 Sense of closure present (beyond summarizing) with interesting, finalizing "closing statement/discussion"
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Conclusion is organized logically and summary is balanced.**  
-1

**5. CORRECT DOCUMENTATION/CITATIONS**

10

- \_\_\_\_\_ **DOCUMENTATION/CITATIONS** are provided for virtually all material in this section that needs to be cited. In other words, credit is given where credit is due.  
-1 to -3

\_\_\_\_\_ DOCUMENTATION/CITATIONS beyond the SPOT CHECKS is done correctly  
-1 to -3

\_\_\_\_\_ **DOCUMENTATION SPOT CHECK #1** (p. \_\_\_\_ source ID \_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
-1 to -3 author, etc.

**PROBLEMS (circled):**

**For direct quotations:**

- Direct quotation isn't quoted exactly as it appeared in the original
- Quoted material stands alone. No effective lead-in statement is present.
- In-text acknowledgement of author (w/ credentials) of directly quoted material not given
- Material isn't found in the original.
- Interpretation of the original material is inaccurate.
- Other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**For paraphrased citations:**

- Paraphrasing of original material raises suspicion of plagiarism. Wording too close to original.
- Interpretation of the original material is inaccurate.
- In-text acknowledgement of author (w/ credentials) of paraphrased material not given
- Material isn't found in the original.
- Other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DOCUMENTATION SPOT CHECK #2** (p. \_\_\_\_ source ID \_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
-1 to -3 author, etc.

**PROBLEMS (circled):**

**For direct quotations:**

- Direct quotation isn't quoted exactly as it appeared in the original
- Quoted material stands alone. No effective lead-in statement is present.
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- Material isn't found in the original.
- Other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **DOCUMENTATION SPOT CHECK #3** (p. \_\_\_\_ source ID \_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
-1 to -3 author, etc.

**PROBLEMS (circled):**

**For direct quotations:**

- Direct quotation isn't quoted exactly as it appeared in the original
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- In-text acknowledgement of author (w/ credentials) of directly quoted material not given
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- Material isn't found in the original.

/10

## STYLE

### 1. LANGUAGE

3  The diction

- 1 to -2 • presents the argument effectively and engagingly
- is effectively tailored to appeal to a clear target audience

The author's use of language is appropriately sophisticated:

- 1 to -2 • first and second person personal pronouns are rare/minimized
- colloquialisms and clichés are avoided
- sophistication is effectively tailored to appeal to a clear target audience

### 2. VOICE/TONE

3  Author's voice is clearly present, authoritative, informed, competent, credible

-1 to -2

Author's voice is distinct from the voice of the sources

-1

Author's sincerity regarding the persuasive purpose is present

-1

Author's voice is appropriately tailored to appeal to the target audience

-1

### 3. SENTENCE STRUCTURE and COHERENCE

4  Sentence structure is purposeful, technically correct, and well-crafted.

-1 to -2

Sentence structure clearly establishes a sophisticated voice, style, and tone appropriate to and appealing to the target audience.

-1

Sentence structure clearly establishes a sophisticated voice, style, and tone which enhances the stated position.

-1

Transitions are used effectively both between and within paragraphs to promote coherence

-1 to -2

**Overall effectiveness of the intro/opening remarks**

- 1 to -2 • interesting, engaging, unique, attention-getting

**Purpose statement clearly states the position as written below:**

-1

/20

## WRITING CONVENTIONS

You can buy back up to /20 "writing convention" points by making  corrections by \_\_\_\_\_ . (due date)

"Writing Conventions" consists of two areas:

- **MANUSCRIPT FORM**

(total points off) **REGULAR MSF (manuscript form) ERRORS (-1 each)**

(total points off) **MSF DOCUMENTATION SPOT CHECKS (-1 each)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ • **DOCUMENTATION CHECK #1**  
total off (par. doc. check from paper p. \_\_\_\_ and source ID \_\_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
author, etc.

**CIRCLE PROBLEMS:**

**For direct quotations:**

- incorrect msf of the direct quotation (DQ)
- incorrect msf of the parenthetical documentation of the direct quotation
- incorrect use of ellipsis points in square brackets [ . . . ] for omissions, square brackets for interpolation, [sic] for errors in the originals
- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**For paraphrased citations:**

- incorrect msf of the paraphrased citation
- incorrect msf of parenthetical documentation of the paraphrased citation
- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ • **DOCUMENTATION CHECK #2**  
total off (par. doc. check from paper p. \_\_\_\_ and source ID \_\_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
author, etc.

**CIRCLE PROBLEMS:**

**For direct quotations:**

- incorrect msf of the direct quotation (DQ)
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- incorrect msf of parenthetical documentation of the paraphrased citation
- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ • **DOCUMENTATION CHECK #3**  
total off (par. doc. check from paper p. \_\_\_\_ and source ID \_\_\_\_\_, p. \_\_\_\_)  
author, etc.

**CIRCLE PROBLEMS:**

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- other problem(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_ (total points off) TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

**SPECIFY HOW MANY OF EACH BELOW:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ AWKWARD word choice awk -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ AGREEMENT faulty subject-verb agreement or pronoun-antecedent agreement agr -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ CAPITALIZATION cap/lc -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ EXACT WORD word chosen is not precise or correct to convey clear meaning ew -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ FRAGMENTS frag -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ HOMONYM ERRORS H -1 or NX H -2
- \_\_\_\_\_ MISPLACED MODIFIER mm -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_ (-1)

- \_\_\_\_\_ PUNCTUATION--COMMAS
- \_\_\_\_\_ PUNCTUATION--APOSTROPHES
- \_\_\_\_\_ PUNCTUATION—OTHER pend & psc & pco & pund  
& pq & pd/h & pq & syl
- \_\_\_\_\_ REFERENCE UNCLEAR ref -1
- \_\_\_\_\_ RUN-ONS ro -2
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPELLING sp -1 or NX SP -2
- \_\_\_\_\_ TENSE t

**+1 \_\_ up to +3**

**EXTRA CREDIT**

- +1 Use at least 5 of our class vocabulary words. **Highlight/box them in!**
- +1 to +3 Contact your target audience! After your paper is graded and the buybacks are finished, prepare an error free copy of your position paper, type a cover letter, place both in a correctly addressed 8 1/2 by 11 envelope, and submit all of them to your teacher. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a personal reply.

\_ /-1 off total

**SECURITY COPY NOT ATTACHED**

\_ /70 **PRELIM. TOTAL** = \_ **PRELIM GRADE**

However, if you receive full credit for buybacks your new score would be \_ /70 = \_ grade

Do buybacks carefully! They are due on \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot be redone!

**TEACHER COMMENTS**

+ positives	- suggestions
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