Position Essay Project

PURPOSE:
You will now begin forming and communicating your own arguments, taking care to balance ethos, pathos, and logos. This assignment will give you practice in conducting research, using sources responsibly, and creating and defending a stance on a topic.

TOPICS: Should college athletes be paid? Should gambling be legalized in Hawaii?

ASSIGNMENT PROCESS:
Debate:
• You will be put into a group that will debate a particular topic, and will be given your stance for an in-class debate. To be clear, your group will be debating the topic with another group, with the rest of your classmates serving as judges.
  • As a group, you are responsible for finding 1-2 sources to support your stance. You will need to refer to the sources during the debate. The sources must be approved.
    ◦ Your sources should include facts, statistics, expert testimony, studies, or other quantifiable data to be most persuasive.
• During the debate, each group will be given 5 minutes to make their initial arguments.
• Following the initial arguments, both groups will have 3 minutes to form rebuttals given what the other group presented.
• Following the 3 minutes, each group will have a final 3 minutes to address any counter arguments and present any rebuttals. It is also your last chance to make an impression on your audience.
• After the rebuttals, the audience will score each group.
  ◦ The winning team gets a prize – two points extra credit on the in-class essay.

*Each person in your group must say something during the debate.
*I am not concerned with what you really think or believe about your topic. I want to see how well you can construct and defend an argument. Often in college you will need to research topics that are not meaningful to you, but you cannot opt out of those.

Grading:
Your group will be graded on how well you balanced ethos, pathos, and logos. The debate is worth 50 points, determined by the professor, using the 5 categories below.
• How LOGICAL and WELL-SUPPORTED were your arguments?
• How well were you able to COUNTER the other group’s arguments?
• How much did you make the audience CARE?
• How CONFIDENT were you, as a group?
• How well did you WORK TOGETHER?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent, score each group for each listed category.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How LOGICAL and well-supported were the points during the initial speech?</td>
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<td>How well did the group COUNTER POINTS during the REBUTTAL?</td>
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<td>How much did the group make you CARE?</td>
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<td>How CONFIDENT did the group sound?</td>
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<td>In general, how CONVINCING was the group?</td>
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Total for each group: ______  ______
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In-class Essay

- Following the debate, you will write a full position essay in class. For the in-class essay, you may switch your stance and/or topic.
- You will write the essay in class, though you are allowed to prepare an outline to bring to the writing session. The outline may not have complete sentences.
- The essay should be between 3-5 pages, depending on handwriting size.
  - Write only on the front side of your paper.
  - Skip every other line.
- You will write the essay in class, though you are allowed to prepare an outline to bring to the writing session. The outline may not have complete sentences.
  - Write only on the front side of your paper.
  - Skip every other line.
- You must use 1-2 sources, and include a works cited entry for any source you use.
  - You are allowed to bring the sources to class to help with writing.
  - You must use 1-3 quotes and 1-3 paraphrases.
    - Underline or highlight the quotes and paraphrases in your essay, and also mark the passages in the source(s) you use.
- You will turn in all materials at the end of the writing session – the essay to be graded with works cited list, any outline used, and the sources.

GRADING:

- The essay is worth 100 points, based on the 5 categories below.
- You will receive a 10% deduction for missing the correct amount of quotes or paraphrases.
- You will receive a non-passing grade if you do not include a correctly formatted works cited entry.

Thesis – How clearly does your thesis statement identify your stance and three supporting ideas?
Organization – How smoothly do you move from one idea to the next using transitions? Are your ideas presented in a logical order?
Support – How fully do you develop each point? Do you sufficiently support your thesis?
Grammar and format – Is your essay free from grammar mistakes, misspellings, and format errors?
Overall Effect – How well do you address the assignment? Are you persuasive?

TOTAL OUT OF 100 : _______