

Smart, Creative and Entrepreneurial



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ESSAY WRITING

SRI LESTARI, MA

SESSION 13

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY: THE FINAL DRAFT



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students are able to
 - Revise, edit and proofread the first draft
 - Write the final draft of an argumentative essay from the first draft

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REVISING

- The best writing is **revised writing**, and you want to re-view, re-see, re-consider your argument to make sure that it's as strong as possible.
- You'll come back to **smaller issues** later (e.g. Is your language compelling? Are your paragraphs clearly and seamlessly connected? Are any of your sentences confusing?).
- But before you get into the details of phrases and punctuation, you need to focus on **making sure your argument is as strong and persuasive** as it can be.

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REVISING

- During this stage, you are not just correcting punctuation and grammar. You are completely **changing some parts of your paper** in order to improve it.
- This probably means **deleting and rewriting** some of your work so that your ideas flow naturally and clearly together.
- While you might be attached to your writing, revising is VERY important, and everyone should aim to have a **final draft that is significantly different from their first draft.**
- This is much more "big picture" than editing.

HOW TO REVISE AN ARGUMENT

- 1) Give yourself time.
- 2) Chart out your argumentative claims and evidence
- 3) Identify and evaluate your argument's assumptions.
- 4) Revise with your audience in mind.
- 5) Be your own most critical reader.
- 6) Look for dissonance or the tension
- 7) Try “provocative revision”: limiting, adding, switching and transforming
- 8) Have someone else help you critically at your argument.

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REVISION CHECKLIST

- Who is my audience?
- Am I convincing?
- Is my conclusion memorable?
- Does my writing make sense?
- Do I make good word choices?
- What needs polishing?
- Ready to publish?

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EDITING

- After you revise and rewrite, you edit.
- Editing is checking your work for punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors, and fixing the errors you find.
- This is much more "small picture" than revising.

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EDITING CHECKLIST

- 1) Does the essay have five paragraphs?
- 2) Does the introduction include a hook and a thesis?
- 3) Does the body paragraph have a topic sentence?
- 4) Does the body paragraph give reasons and explanations that support the topic sentence? Does it give a counter-argument and refutation?
- 5) Does the conclusion refer to the main idea of the essay?
- 6) Are the quantity expressions used to avoid over generalizations?
- 7) Are connectors used to show the relationship (opposition or support) between ideas?

TWO WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR WRITING

- **Focus on improving your essay's COHESION.** You can do this by improving your **use of transition words and phrases**, and by moving your sentences/paragraphs around so that any writing involving similar topics is grouped together. You also make sure to show how **every idea is linked** to your thesis (overall position) so the reader remembers that you're really **focused on one topic**.
- **Changing passive voice to active voice.** Taking out "to be" verbs and replacing them with action verbs can make your writing more interesting and exciting to read.

REVIEW

1. An argumentative essay is a kind of essay in which you try to persuade your reader to agree with your opinion about a controversial topic.
2. An argumentative essay contains these five elements:
 - ✓ An explanation of the issue
 - ✓ A clear thesis statement
 - ✓ A summary of the opposing arguments
 - ✓ Rebuttals to the opposing arguments
 - ✓ Your own arguments
3. Use either a block pattern or a point-by-point pattern. Be sure to include the opposite point of view as well as your own.
4. Use contrast transition signals to connect opposing arguments and your counter-arguments.

ASSIGNMENT

- Continue working on your first draft.
- Revise your first draft by doing self editing and peer-editing (with your classmate)
- Use the editing checklists (both for self-editing and peer-editing)
- Start revising by looking at the feedbacks from your peers.
- Rewrite your draft into the final argumentative essay.

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REFERENCES

- Oshima, A & Hogue, A. 2006. *Writing Academic English. 4th edition*. Pearson Longman
- Savage, A & Mayer, P. 2005. *Effective Academic Writing 2: the Short Essay*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- <https://writing.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/535/2018/07/revision.pdf>

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THANK YOU

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Revision Checklist

		Yes or No?
Who is my audience?	Have I clearly stated and introduced my topic?	
	Have I said everything that I want to say?	
	Have I used appropriate, academic language and topic-specific words?	
	Do I provide a clear road map so my audience knows where I am going and what my main arguments are at all times?	
Am I convincing?	Did I form a cohesive, well-supported argument?	
	Is the evidence supporting my stance convincing?	
	Do I smoothly blend information from my research into my own ideas in a meaningful way?	
	Is something missing?	
	Did I use multiple pieces of evidence to support my argument?	
	Did my evidence come from a credible resource?	
	Do I include a counter-argument?	
	Do I overcome and refute that counter-argument?	

Name: _____

Date: _____

Is my conclusion memorable?	Does my conclusion do a good job of summarizing the argument made in the body of the essay?	
	Have I stayed on topic to the very end, not introducing new information that is not discussed in other paragraphs?	
	Does it end with a brief and clearly written final statement (like a call to action or something memorable)?	
	Did I answer the "so what?"?	
Does my writing make sense?	Are there extra details or information that stray from the topic?	
	Is there a better way to say what I want to say?	
	Could the essay's organization improve?	
	Does each sentence sound complete and strong?	
	Do I use proper punctuation, spelling, and grammar?	
	Does each sentence support my main argument or thesis?	
	Do I repeat myself in my paragraphs?	

Name: _____

Date: _____

Do I make good word choices?	Where can I add adjectives and adverbs or additional information to make it more interesting?	
	Can I remove unnecessary words that are repetitive, boring, or don't sound right?	
	Have I read my paper aloud to myself or another person to see if it makes sense?	
What needs polishing?	Grammar?	
	Spelling?	
	Punctuation?	
	Organization?	
Ready to publish?	Is this my best work?	
	Am I ready to share it with my audience?	

Sample Essay: Highlighted Revision

Genetically Modified Foods: Stop Until We Know More

Have you ever heard of a cabbage that produces scorpion venom? What about a banana that acts as a vaccine for hepatitis B? These are just a few examples of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. GMOs are foods and organisms that are scientifically altered to produce desired traits. There are still many questions about the long-term effects of producing and consuming GMOs. **For this reason, genetically modified foods should be banned from diets until we know more about them.**

One reason to ban genetically modified organisms and foods is that producing them can cause environmental and health problems. Genetically modified foods hurt the environment in several ways. **For one thing,** most GMOs are more resistant to herbicides, so the use of toxic herbicides has increased by 15 times since GMOs were first grown (“GMO Facts”). **In addition,** GMOs that are pest and weed resistant are responsible for the development of “super pests” and “super weeds” that are resistant to herbicides and insecticides (“GMO Facts”). As pesticide use increases, chemicals such as glyphosate make their way into food and water supplies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows for some levels of residual pesticides in food and feed crops. **According to Antoniou,** even at the low levels allowed, exposure to these chemicals has been linked to serious health effects, such as kidney and liver toxicity. **Research is still being done on GMOs to study their full environmental impact.** “We really do not know what the long-term consequences will be for our health, safety, or the environment” (Kaplan).

Eating genetically modified foods can be dangerous to people’s health. **According to the Institute for Responsible Technology, in the 1980s,** one type of genetically modified food

contained contaminants that killed almost 100 people in the United States and made thousands of others sick. And in 1999, after genetically modified soy was introduced in the United Kingdom, there was a 5% increase in soy allergies (“65 Health Risks of GM Foods”). This shows that the effects of GMOs can be dangerous and unpredictable. It is important to make sure more studies are done so that nothing like that happens again.

Supporters of GM foods say that they do not present any risks, but governments around the world disagree on this issue. The US government ensures that GMOs are safe to eat, but these foods are banned or restricted in over 50 countries, according to the Law Library of Congress. That includes Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and the entire European Union. The fact that different countries cannot agree on the safety of GMOs shows that more research needs to be done before these foods are safe to eat.

GMOs are scientifically designed to be part of people’s diets. However, the consequences of producing and consuming GMOs are not fully understood. They may present environmental and health risks. Until more is known about their effects, genetically modified foods should not be sold or produced in the United States.

REFERENCES

“65 Health Risks of GM Foods.” *Institute for Responsible Technology*. Institute for Responsible Technology, n.d. Web. 12 December 2014.

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Sample Essay: Final Draft

Genetically Modified Foods: Stop Until We Know More

Have you ever heard of a cabbage that produces scorpion venom? What about a banana that acts as a vaccine for hepatitis B? These are just a few examples of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. GMOs are foods and organisms that are scientifically altered to produce desired traits. There are still many questions about the long-term effects of producing and consuming GMOs. For this reason, genetically modified foods should be banned from diets until we know more about them.

One reason to ban genetically modified organisms and foods is that producing them can cause environmental and health problems. Genetically modified foods hurt the environment in several ways. For one thing, most GMOs are more resistant to herbicides, so the use of toxic herbicides has increased by 15 times since GMOs were first grown (“GMO Facts”). In addition, GMOs that are pest and weed resistant are responsible for the development of “super pests” and “super weeds” that are resistant to herbicides and insecticides (“GMO Facts”). As pesticide use increases, chemicals such as glyphosate make their way into food and water supplies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows for some levels of residual pesticides in food and feed crops. According to Antoniou, even at the low levels allowed, exposure to these chemicals has been linked to serious health effects, such as kidney and liver toxicity. Research is still being done on GMOs to study their full environmental impact, which also has an important impact on the foods we eat and therefore our health. “We really do not know what the long-term consequences will be for our health, safety, or the environment” (Kaplan).

Eating genetically modified foods can be dangerous to people's health. According to the Institute for Responsible Technology, in the 1980s, one type of genetically modified food contained contaminants that killed almost 100 people in the United States and made thousands of others sick. And in 1999, after genetically modified soy was introduced in the United Kingdom, there was a 5% increase in soy allergies ("65 Health Risks of GM Foods"). This shows that the effects of GMOs can be dangerous and unpredictable. It is important to make sure more studies are done so that nothing like that happens again.

Supporters of GM foods say that they do not present any risks, but governments around the world disagree on this issue. The US government ensures that GMOs are safe to eat, but these foods are banned or restricted in over 50 countries, according to the Law Library of Congress. That includes Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and the entire European Union. The fact that different countries cannot agree on the safety of GMOs shows that more research needs to be done before these foods are safe to eat.

Many GMOs are scientifically designed to be part of people's diets. However, the consequences of producing and consuming GMOs are not fully understood. They may present environmental and health risks. Until more is known about their effects, genetically modified foods should not be sold or produced in the United States.

REFERENCES

“65 Health Risks of GM Foods.” *Institute for Responsible Technology*. Institute for Responsible Technology, n.d. Web. 12 December 2014.

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