

Argumentative Essay for Constitution Project

In order to write an essay about the *U.S. Constitution*, you first need to read and understand the contents of the *U.S. Constitution*. Through the completion of class work and assembling your project, you should have a reasonable understanding of the *U.S. Constitution* which will allow you to write this paper.

You will write an argumentative/persuasive essay in which you will make a reasoned case for your opinion on one of the topics listed below.

Topic 1: Argue that one of the Articles (I, II, or III) has the most significant role in fulfilling the goals of the *Constitution* as stated in the Preamble. Re-read the Preamble of the *Constitution* and look over the article pages you have assembled for your project. Think carefully about Articles I, II, and III, the institutions which they establish, and the authority and powers granted to each. Which Article is most important in achieving the goals of the Preamble according to your experience (accumulation of newspaper and magazine articles) during this project?

Topic 2: Argue that one of the Amendments in the Bill of Rights has the most significant role in fulfilling the goals of the *Constitution* as stated in the Preamble. Read the Bill of Rights and look over the article pages you have assembled for your project. Think carefully about each Amendment and choose the one you believe fits your project's pages the best.

Topic 3: The Constitution prevents abuse of power by dividing the federal government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Through a system of checks and balances, each branch has their own clearly assigned responsibilities while also having some authority to limit the power of the other branches. Look over the article pages you have assembled for your project and think carefully about the numerous checks that were established in the *Constitution*. Identify the check of one branch's power by another branch that you believe to be the most vital in maintaining balance of power in the U.S. government and fulfilling the goals of the Preamble.

In an argumentative/persuasive essay, you should take a clearly defined stance on the topic you choose and **use evidence from your project (the actual newspaper & magazine articles you have selected)** to support your opinion. Your analysis of your articles should help your reader understand how the evidence you've chosen strengthens your main argument.

It is important to keep your audience in mind when writing an argumentative essay, ask yourself how could my evidence be interpreted differently by my readers (or somebody with a different perspective)? How could I convince these people to understand my interpretation? How can I state my ideas in an assertive and knowledgeable yet professional and respectful manner?

Your essay should include:

- An introduction to your topic
- A **thesis statement** that argues clearly for your point of view.
- 3-4 (or more) strong ideas that support your argument
- **Evidence from your project** to support each of your ideas
- Analysis of each piece of evidence (your articles) that supports your thesis.
- A conclusion that ties your argument together

You should also: double space, use 1 inch margins, and use no larger than 12 pt. type.

.....**Follow Directions**.....