

Assignment Overview: Essay #3 Evaluative Essay (Argumentative)

What You'll be Doing for Our Third Essay Assignment

Abstraction.

How do you understand an idea? A concept? A way of looking at the world? And why? Why is it necessary to do this?

On one level, the how to is easy: first you have to read up on the subject and then, to truly understand it, write about it; second, you have to want to understand the idea or concept.

Why is that desire to understand so important? Because without it, you will not devote the necessary mental energy needed to feed your imagination. And it's your imagination and intellect – the left and right side of your brain – that fire off the neurons that will get you to understand abstractions. And that understanding lies at the core of the college endeavor. It's this ability to understand connections between seemingly disparate ideas or evidence that mean the difference between a job with a corner office ("I'm presenting at the London conference") – and a job in a grease trap ("Where does this used lard go?")

Purpose of Essay

This next assignment is designed to get you in that corner office. It will show you how to understand, form an opinion on, and then write about an abstract concept.

Topic of Essay

Your purpose will be to evaluate three different ways of viewing the world: conservative, liberal, or libertarian. While these ideologies or civic stances are most closely associated with government, you quickly find out that a) government affects every facet of your life; and b) government affects every facet of your life (repetition can be a very effective rhetorical tool). You'll also find that these terms represent, as noted above, an outlook or view that colors the way you understand and accept art and music, how you raise children, what kind of education is best, etc. In short, it's a way of looking at life.

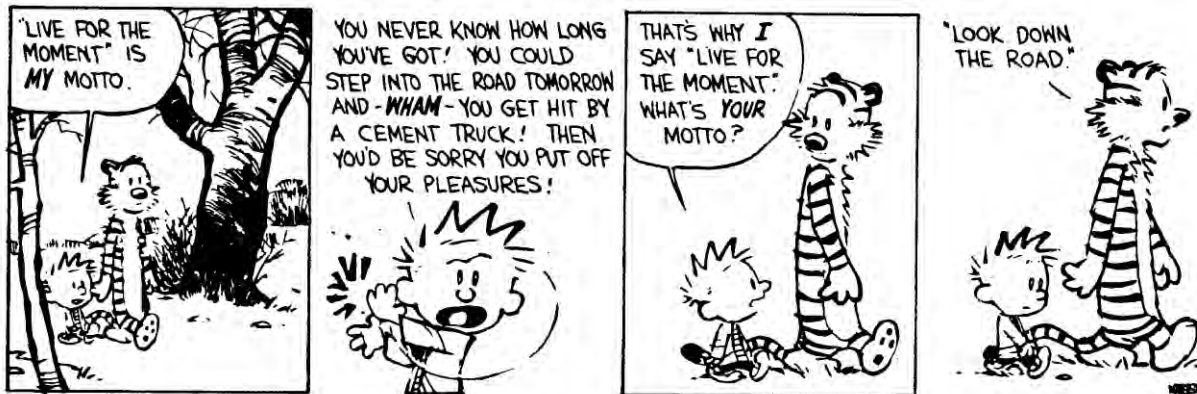
This will be the main essay for this semester and as "The Intellectual Free Lunch" made clear, it's essential to understand an issue before you develop an opinion about it. Thus we'll be reviewing issues that affect our daily lives, including the environment, social welfare, and worker and individual rights. The writing assignment ties these issues together under the broad umbrella of civic stances.

Of course, many (most?) people would much rather pay attention to their favorite music group, shop, work on their cars, watch the weather channel, etc. than pay attention to issues such as those above. But the coughing as you breath (or the closed beaches), the money you pay for tuition, the overtime pay you earn (or don't earn), and the right to choose (or not choose) your religion affect you every day.

This all means two different things: 1) there's quite a bit of reading to get you up to speed on issues like those above, 2) this assignment means you have to think about things that most Americans prefer to ignore.

Thus you'll be exposed to intriguing and often new and surprising views and ideas as we prepare to write this essay. Get ready to enjoy yourself as you learn about the real world around you - as opposed to the consumer driven I-want-immediate-gratification-and-I-want-it-now tripe of most mainstream media - and get ready to be amused, dismayed, and encouraged by the various responses you encounter.

Another way of looking at this is to consider the Cement Truck of Life

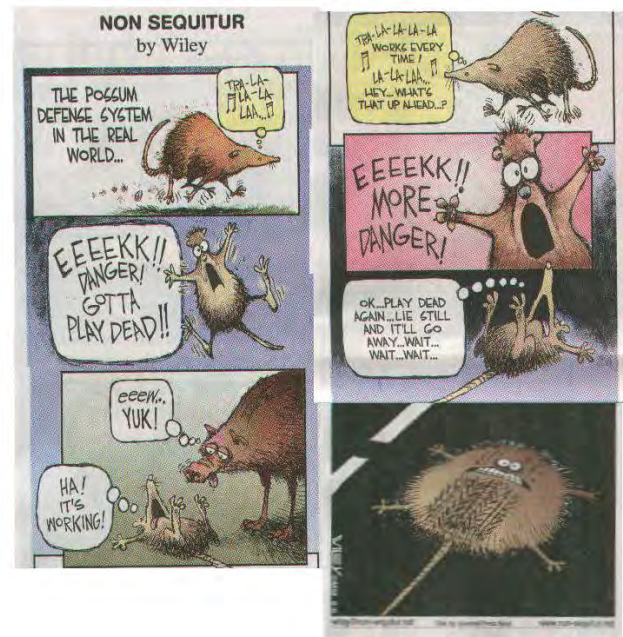


In life you have to make choices. You can live the unexamined life, like Calvin (the little boy in the cartoon) above. But why not do both? Why not live for the moment and watch the road (a cement truck is one of the best examples of kinetic energy – particularly when it hits a pedestrian). Hobbes' (that oh so intelligent tiger) motto "Look down the road" suggests that foresight and knowledge are necessary to truly enjoy life – and to avoid being buried in an envelope.

These choices often involve examining ideas that make your brain tingle. Just what should we do as citizens? Is there a way to arrange our thoughts on government programs, taxes, property rights, worker rights? There is: civic stances. Civic stances are broad systems of belief that give order to people's view of what government should and should not do. While there are many different kinds of civic stances, in America most people fall into three categories: conservative, liberal, and libertarian. These end up involving politics because civic stances are a good way to generalize citizens' and politicians' way of looking at the world.

Of course, mentioning the word "politics" causes many to bolt for the exits. And that's too bad. You could take the passive way out. "What's it matter" you might say with a jaded air, "I can't do anything" or "It doesn't really effect me." Too many people, like Calvin, play possum and try to avoid issues by ignoring them. But the problem is the Cement Truck of Life has a way of rumbling through and nailing you just when you think everything was going fine. Purchased a house in Toms River? Who's going to pay for the polluted water? Drive without a seatbelt? Who's going to pay when you get brain damaged and spend the next forty years dribbling in a cup and watching reruns of *Matlock*. If you said "taxpayers," you're right, and you're getting at one of the reasons to pay attention to the Cement Truck of Life: you don't want to get blindsided by issues like my friend to the right.

Why am I talking about cement trucks and showing you pictures of dead possums you ask? Well, it's to show how something as seemingly dry and uninspiring as civic stances or ideologies (the topic of the next essay) effects every decision you make in life. Notice that I used the verb "make" here. It's better to make decisions then to have them foisted upon you by the powers that be . . . whether these powers are the government, your boss, friends or family.



To help ease you into the topic, you'll first be reading brief introductions on the ideas surrounding civic stances, and then reading "issue" essays which illustrate how civic stances play out in real life.

Discourse

Global warming, pollution, paying for beach access, gas prices, alternative energy, sex education, job training. "Uh Dr. Bordelon . . . didn't you say this essay would focus on civic stances?"

Yes.

As I noted earlier, one of the things you'll discover in this essay is how issues have a tendency to connect with each other.

The Writing Assignment: Essay #3

Write an essay which argues that one of the civic stances we've studied – conservatism, liberalism, or libertarianism – is best for America. This is an academic essay, so the tone is formal, but remember that you need to keep the reader interested. Follow the suggestions for planning, revision, and proofreading in *I&C* (111+). As stated in the Assignment sheet for essay #1, for this and all essays, assume your audience is college educated (or getting there) – but in this case, isn't sure what you mean by conservative, liberal, or libertarian.

Requirements

Final draft, minimum of 1,500 words. You need to include a minimum of four different sources (which means a minimum of works cited entries and at least four in-text citations) -- but remember, the emphasis is on your reasoning: it's what you actually do with the sources that makes a good essay. Essay must include introduction (with thesis and division statement); body paragraphs; counter-argument and rebuttal; and conclusion.

Note on sources

Three of the sources must be from the assigned readings. You must also include at least one (1) fact/statistic/quote from a source that was not assigned. And yes, most "A" and "B" essays use more than one.

If taken from the internet, this outside research **MUST** be from EBSCOhost, SIRS, LEXIS databases (see "How Do I Find Sources" *I&C* 73+), accessible through our library's home page. **ANY other internet source MUST (that's MUST) be approved by me before (that's BEFORE) you include them in your essay.** The penalty? A substantially lowered grade (i.e. in the "D" range).

You've been using many of the college's databases throughout the semester. Try SIRS, Opposing Viewpoints, and New York Times databases (use **Library Link** on the Course Menu) and then move to EBSCOhost and other sources.

College textbooks and magazines and newspapers are excellent sources as well.

Learning Objectives

1. Articulating the differences and similarities between several different abstract concepts
2. Moving from abstraction (conservatism, liberalism, libertarianism) to the concrete (examples of each)
3. Information literacy: finding, selecting, and evaluating sources
4. Turn information into knowledge by using current events, statistics, and/or historical examples to prove an argument
5. Developing engaging introductions and conclusions
6. Developing a single idea (division) over the course of two or more paragraphs
7. See the advantages of revising your work in stages (paragraph by paragraph)
8. Using more sophisticated punctuation (dashes, colons, semi-colons)
9. Proofread your work so that it does not interfere with reader's comprehension of your argument
10. Manage your time and complete each draft by the assigned due date

Directions

Follow suggestions in the following pages of *I&C*.

Grading Criteria

To receive a passing grade, you must successfully complete the following:

Organization: A thesis statement which clearly states the subject, your position and the divisions of your essay. A counter-argument and rebuttal.

Content: Clear and balanced arguments, developed with examples, descriptions and stories, and a full and persuasive development of the reasoning behind each of the examples.

Proofreading: Sentences that are clear and no more than 5 major errors.

Major errors:

Sentence fragments, run-on sentences, verb-tense error, subject-verb agreement error, unclear phrasing, documentation and spelling/wrong word error.

Student tips

“I hadn’t realized before how important counter-argument is in convincing readers of the best stance. I’m used to simply presenting evidence rather than arguing against it.”

“At first, I thought I would have to really sit down and force myself to read and really understand the readings, which I did have to do in the beginning. But as time went by, I was really surprised by the fact that I found the readings to be interesting. I now pick up the paper and actually read some articles that have to do with politics”

“I guess I have been hiding in a closet because I was never aware of civic stances until I read the assigned writing. In all honesty, I have probably heard of conservatives and liberals but have never really understood what was being implied by the label.”

Things to Watch for

Lack of explanation. Your examples do not speak for themselves – in fact, your argument lies not in the evidence, but in why and how the evidence supports your point. And since examples can’t speak, it’s up to you to connect them to the point of your paragraph and the larger point of your essay. Remember that whenever you make a claim about conservatism, liberalism, or libertarianism, you must connect it to a source.

Remember that civic stances are *not* the same as political parties; they are philosophies that shape individual and governmental actions

Remember, as well, to keep in mind the three major issues that shape these philosophies: the size of government, whether government may regulate individual behavior, and whether government should intervene in the economy.

Counter-arguments usually work best when they seem to naturally flow from your argument: avoid the “stuck-on-at-the-end-because-I-have-to-include-one” type of counter-argument.

Definitions of the Civic Stances

From *The Dorsey Dictionary of American Government and Politics* by Jay M. Shafritz.
Chicago, Ill. : Dorsey Press, c1988

Conservatism Adherence to a political disposition that tends to prefer the status quo and accepts change only in moderation. Both major parties have historically had a substantial number of conservatives, but since the 1960s many of the conservatives in the Democratic party (especially from the South) have been shifting to the Republicans. Conservatives are most often found among those who have, or have the potential to have, wealth and property. They naturally resist change, because they have something to lose. As John Kenneth Galbraith wrote in *American Capitalism* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1956): “It is a simple matter of arithmetic that change *may* be costly to the man who has something: it cannot be so to the man who has nothing.” If modern conservatism can be said to have a founding father, that person would be Edmund Burke (1729-1797), the British politician who asserted that a political community should conserve the best policies of the past by carefully, slowly, blending them into the ever-evolving future. Conservatism’s founding document is often held to be Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), in which he said that “it is with infinite caution that any man ought to venture upon pulling down an edifice which has answered in any tolerable degree for ages the common purposes of society.” (Shafritz 130)

Liberalism 2 In this century, liberalism has come to stand for the advocacy of government programs for the welfare of individuals, because without such welfare state advantages the masses have little chance to

enjoy the traditional freedoms long espoused by the political theorists. So a term that mean small government and low taxation in the last century has in this century come to mean big government and high taxation. One is reminded of Will Rogers' statement referring to the New Deal's domestic programs: "I can remember way back when a liberal was one who was generous with his own money." (Shafritz 325)

Libertarianism A pure form of classical liberalism, which asserts that a government should do little more than provide police and military protection; other than that, it should not interfere – either for good or ill – in the lives of its citizens. A major intellectual force advocating libertarianism was Ayn Rand (1905-1982), the objectivist philosopher who attacked welfare state notions of selflessness and sacrifice for a common good in novels such as *The Fountainhead* (1943) and *Atlas Shrugged* (1957). In 1980, a Libertarian party presidential candidate was on the ballot in all fifty states, and in 1984, in thirty-eight states. Thus far, the Libertarian party has had little impact on American politics. (Shafritz 326)

From *The American Political Dictionary* by Jack Plano and Milton Greenberg
New York, N.Y. : Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, c1982.

Conservatism Defense of the status quo against major changes in the political, economic, or social institutions of a society. The classic statement of the philosophy of conservatism was expounded by the English statesmen, Edmund Burke. He held that political stability could be maintained only if the forces of change could be moderated by a slow and careful integration of new elements into time-tested institutions.

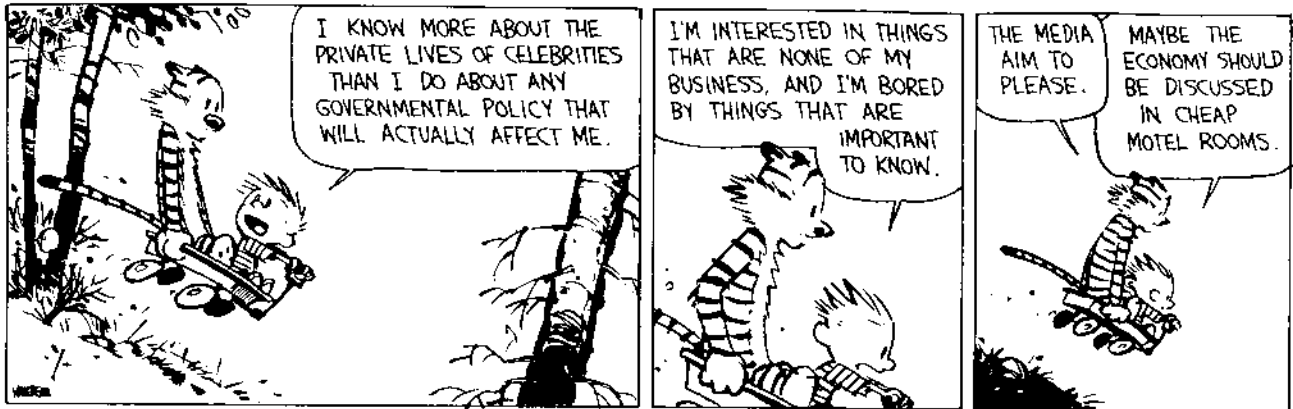
Significance Both major American political parties have conservative wings that frequently unite in opposing liberal legislation. Today, in American politics the term "conservatism" has no precise meaning and is often used accusatorially against a rival party or candidate. The general conservative position on issues, however, has been fairly consistently opposed to governmental regulation of the economy, heavy government spending, and civil rights legislation. Conservatives tend to favor state over federal action, fiscal responsibility, decreased governmental spending, supply-side economics, the outlawing of abortion, more effective crime control, and lower taxes. Although conservatism received a setback in the 1964 defeat of Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, conservative groups played a major role in Ronald Regan's successful presidential election campaign in 1980. Conservative strength in the United States is divided between the populist, radical, predominantly blue-collar wing, and the upper- and upper-middle-class liaison between the inheritors of the wealth and the *nouveaux riches*. (Plano and Greenberg 6)

Liberalism A political view that seeks to change the political, economic, or social status quo to foster the development and well-being of the individual. Liberals regard the individual as a rational creature who can use his or her intelligence to overcome human and natural obstacles to a good life for all without resorting to violence against the established order. Liberalism is more concerned with process, with the method of solving problems, than with a specific program.

Significance Liberalism evolved in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as a doctrine emphasizing the full development of the individual, free from the restraints of government. The twentieth-century liberal, conversely, looks to government as a means of correcting the abuses and shortcomings of society through positive programs of action. In civil rights, for example, today's liberal views government as a positive force that can ameliorate wrongs and expand the freedom of the individual, rather than as, in the traditional sense, the major threat to individual freedom. Liberals have fought totalitarianism of the left and right by pursuing policies that seek to reduce economic and social inequalities. (Plano and Greenberg 42)

Parts of Argumentative/Evaluative Essay

Introduction:



Get the reader interested in topic – as in expository essays, you can start with a story or a vivid example.

Ideas? Sure, check the *Seagull Handbook* and the suggestions from other essays. You should also look over each of the essays you've already read. How did those writers open their work?

Define the Issue: Provide Background/Context

Help reader understand the topic. Here, you'll be arguing that one of three civic stances is better than the others. Wait a second . . . what's a civic stance? What do you mean by conservative? Liberal? Libertarian? These questions will have to be quickly answered (and cited) in a paragraph before you come to your

Thesis and Divisions

State your argument (thesis) and then list the reasons that will support it (divisions).

Argument

Remember that your goal is to argue, not merely report on civic stances. Thus, you'll have to not only prove that, for instance, conservatives believe that personal rights should be limited, but you'll have to explain to readers why that's good for America.

Counterarguments

Unlike an in-class essay where you include the argument in a single paragraph, here you should work in counterarguments throughout your essay. Just sticking them in at the end will make your essay too rote, too formulaic.

Conclusion

End with a bang, not with a whimper. See the suggestions from previous essays and *Seagull Handbook* for more specifics

Now that you understand the parts of this kind of essay (which after essay one and two shouldn't look unfamiliar), it's time to begin planning your essay.

What do you think you'll find on the next page?

Planning Ideas: Essay #3

The main thing that holds back students on this essay is lack of preparation: you need to have read the essays and taken notes. If you have done so, you'll have no problems. If you haven't read the essays – READ THEM NOW and then get to work on the essay.

Even if you've read the essays, most students suggest rereading selected parts of the essays and being sure to understand what each stance values as vital to writing this essay. Look over the Civic Stance grids and class and group notes to clarify the differences between the stances.

More specifically, look over the following quick outline and the more detailed examples below.

Basic Drafting Plan

1. Look over homework and group work: decide upon a stance
2. Make a list of 10 pros and cons on that stance
 - a. Look over “How Do I Come Up With Reasons?” (*I&C* 65) and home/group work to prime your mental pump and get you thinking about possible pros and cons
 - b. Ask the following question if you're having trouble getting started:
 - i. I think _____ is a good civic stance because it _____
 - c. (note: if you can't decide between two stances, do this for each – it'll help you decide)
 - d. If you can't come up with 10, try another stance
3. Look over list and
 - a. group related ideas:
 - b. Choose three reasons from these as divisions.
4. Craft thesis and division statement (see below for thesis statement format)
5. Use Reasons and Evidence sheet or outline to organize your thinking and prepare to notes – get quotes from readings to support your assertions.
6. Develop topic sentences that build from divisions
7. Define divisions in body paragraphs
8. Use two part development for each division:
 - a. Quote from the readings to connect division to stance (for example, prove that liberals believe gov't should use welfare to help the poor or that conservatives want to regulate some private behaviors)
 - b. Explanation of why/how division is good for America (your argument).
9. Discuss how the other stances would view your divisions
10. Get draft to me ASAP

Developing Reasons and Choosing a Stance

It ain't easy, is it? If you're not a demagogue, you should have conflicting opinions: you probably like some aspects of one stance, and other aspects of a different stance. This is as it should be. Your goal now is to winnow out the positives and negatives of each and decide which, on the whole, is best for America.

“How do I winnow?” Glad you asked. Remember essay #2? After some pre-writing you generated a list of different reasons for an against a topic. Same thing here. Using the ideas in the readings, your new-found (or tried and tested) knowledge of current events, the “How Do I Come up With Reasons” in *I&C* (65), and considering both short and long term effects, generate a list of reasons for and against the different stances. Putting this on paper should help you determine which stance is best for America.

You Can Do It

To show you how much you already know, below find some sample student work. After ten minutes of in-class brainstorming, a student developed this list

Ten reasons why Liberalism is best

1. Helps with environment
- 2 gives people financial aid they need
- 3 gives people the right amount of privacy
- 4 cares about people's needs

- 5 Tries to get rid of discrimination, whether sexual or racial doesn't prejudice
- 6 greater economy
- 7 helps teens (goes along with education and economy)
- 8 government programs for all sorts of things for the people
- 9 in favor of sex ed
- 10 regulations for corporation

He then chose three of these ideas, and asked "how?" to generate more material (note that for #1, he just had to move his previous #10).

- 1 Helps with environment
 - a) regulations for corporations
- 2 gives people financial aid they need
 - a) welfare
 - b) food stamps
 - c) temporary aid so they can get back on their feet
- 3 gives people the right amount of privacy
 - a) doesn't go deep into personal privacy

He now has his essay set up: all that remains is to fill out the R&E sheet or the add material from his notes to this outline.

Divisions/Thesis statement

The main point here is to choose your divisions and practice persuading your reader why these divisions prove your civic stance is the best. Again, try, whenever possible, to relate your position to "real-life" to illustrate its relevancy.

A general idea? Okay.

_____ is the best civic stance for America because of _____, _____, and _____.

For ideas on divisions, look over the sample thesis statements on page 300, and consider the sample thesis statements below (from student essays)

Sample Thesis Statements

Which work, and which don't?

Don't concentrate on the position: look at the wording of the thesis and division statements. Which present the position and divisions clearly? Which don't? Note that some writers used improper wording as well: the correct terms would be liberals, libertarians, and conservatives – or liberalism, libertarianism, and conservatism.

_____ is the best stance for America because they believe the government shouldn't interfere in individual's lives, that everyone can benefit in the economy even without minimum wage, and that everyone is free to invoke their own moral code.

_____ is the best civic stance because it believes in equality among Americans, it supports government involvement in the economy and it does not interfere in personal morality issues.

While all of these beliefs have their benefits, _____ beliefs are the most inclusive for all in society. This is because they employ a strong central government that promotes security, while providing assistance to those who need it. The flexibility of a _____ stance also allows them to see the need for change both in it's own programs and in

society, while promoting equality and allowing us our individual freedom.

_____ is the future of America. This is true because of _____ belief in morality, their distrust of concentrated power in government, and their belief in an open market.

Reasons and Evidence Sheet

The reasons and evidence sheet for this essay should help you organize your thinking into a coherent essay. Using your pre-writing and notes, fill in the blanks, put it next to your computer, and begin typing. You should soon come up with a thesis statement.

Words and Sentence patterns to use

When introducing (providing a context) your examples or explaining them, use the verb list in the “Citing Sources” section of *I&C* (76) to shift your language into an argumentative discourse.

You could also try the following:

“The problem with _____ is that _____.”

“This _____ helps American workers/bankers/rich because _____”

The advantage/s of _____ is/are _____.”

Developing Body Paragraphs

It’s your job to prove why a particular civic stance is good for America. Using argumentative discourse will help (“This will” “These statistics prove”) shift your essay into, well, an argument.

Try this two part approach:

- 1) quote from readings to link your topic/division to your stance (i.e. liberals support regulating business; libertarians believe businesses should have no regulations); then
- 2) argue why this division is good for America.

Should you use personal examples? Yes. Should you use examples from the textbook? Yes. Should you use examples from “real life”? Yes. Could you invent scenarios? Yes. Should you tell your readers that these scenarios are invented? Yes. Most importantly, should you remember that this is only the first of many drafts and the most important thing to do is finish the darn thing? Yes. Are you tired of me asking “yes” questions? Then how about an example

Thesis statement is:

Liberalism is the best civic stance because it promotes individual liberties and business and environmental regulations.

First topic sentence, then connect to your stance

Another reason liberalism is the best stance for America is their view on environmental regulations. Roger Rosenblatt argues that in the 1990s a liberal government helped pass the Clean Air Act Amendments which “will reduce the country’s air pollution by more than 49 billion pounds per year” (256).

Think of the connection noted above this way: You need to show that _____ (fill in with civic stance you’re arguing for) supports _____ (fill in with division you’re working on) by using a quote or summary from the readings that illustrates this support.

Then explain why/how that division is good for all Americans

Secret hint: consider division from a health/social/safety/economic/freedom/etc. perspective.

Since air pollution is a primary cause of asthma and other respiratory problems, eliminating forty nine billion pounds a year will reduce the number of respiratory attacks, making _____ (find number of asthma and respiratory sufferers) of Americans breath easier. And of course if these people are not

receiving medical care, which can cost ____ a year (find stat), then that money can be used to help prevent other attacks, or even lower health insurance for all Americans. While environmentalism is often categorized as a cause of "radicals" and "tree huggers," it's clear that the benefits of pursuing environmental regulations can affect everyone. Liberal support of such regulations can insure better health - and more money - for all.

Note the blanks here. Would they be okay for a rough draft?

You've already used the Reasons and Evidence sheet for essay #2. On the following page you'll find another Reasons and Evidence sheet set up especially for essays on Civic Stances.

Consider, as well, a more traditional outline such as the example below

- I. Introduction
- II. Definition paragraph
- III. Thesis
- IV. Body paragraph #1
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Connect division to stance
 - c. Reason why division is good for America
 - d. View of other stance? (Counterargument)
- V. Body paragraph #2 etc.
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Connect division to stance
 - c. Reason why division is good for America
 - d. View of other stance? (Counterargument)
- VI. Body paragraph #3 etc.
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Connect division to stance
 - c. Reason why division is good for America
 - d. View of other stance? (Counterargument)
- VII. Conclusion
- VIII. Shout "Wa Hoo!" (note that this is shouted - do not include in essay)

Reasons and Evidence Sheet: Essay #3 (Page 1)

<p>1 _____ is a better political philosophy because (it) _____</p>	<p>Connection to Stance (use quote from readings) a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how division would help Americans a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Example b. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how the example would help Americans b. _____</p> <hr/>
<p>2 _____ is a better political philosophy because (it) _____</p>	<p>Connection to Stance (use quote from readings) a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how division would help Americans a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Example b. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how the example would help Americans b. _____</p> <hr/>
<p>3 _____ is a better political philosophy because (it) _____</p>	<p>Connection to Stance (use quote from readings) a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how the division would help Americans a. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Example b. _____</p> <hr/> <p>Explanation of why/how the example would help Americans a. _____</p> <hr/>

Reasons and Evidence Sheet: Essay #3 (Page 2)

<p><i>Remember that only two or three reasons may be sufficient – particularly if you break them into subdivisions.</i></p> <p>4 _____ is a better political philosophy because (it) _____</p>	<p>Connection to Stance</p> <p>a. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Explanation of why/how the division would help Americans</p> <p>b. _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Contrast with other political philosophy</p> <p>Unlike (other stance), (your stance) offers . . .</p> <p>Or</p> <p>While _____ is a better philosophy, _____ does offer _____</p>	<p>Example for counter-argument</p> <p>b. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Rebut or qualify: why is the example wrong or why isn't it important/misleading</p> <p>a. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Example for counter-argument</p> <p>b. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Rebut or qualify: why is the example wrong or why isn't it important/misleading</p> <p>b. _____</p> <p>_____</p>

Thesis Statement #1 (remember to include divisions)

#2

#3

Peer Review for Essay #3 (Argumentative/evaluative)

Remember that your goal isn't to answer "yes" to every question: it's to make suggestions. Try using "Consider ____" or "Try ____" to preface your comments.

6. Introduction

- a. What changes could be made to help the intro grab your attention?
- b. Does it provide enough background information to set up the issue? Do you understand what will be evaluated? Should two or more paragraphs be needed to provide more information?
- c. Is the background material cited?

7. Thesis

Copy out what you think is the thesis and division statement.

- b) Comment on its clarity
 - can you tell the position of the writer?
 - Are the divisions really distinct and separate, or could two of them be combined into one?

8. Support your position

For each paragraph complete the following:

d) Topic Sentences

- Does the topic sentence set up an argument based on the divisions?
- Is there a focus word which connects back to the division in the first sentence (or so)?

e) Evidence/Details

- Where can more specific information from the readings be included to connect the division to the civic stance?

f) Explanation

- The #1 item that usually needs work is the explanation: where can a more specific explanation on why ____ (topic of paragraph) helps or hurts America be added?
- Where can more explanations – analogies to other events, reference to economic, social, political, moral arguments, etc. (see *I&C* 65) – be included? Remember that it is the explanation, not the evidence, that shows your reasoning.

9. Counterargument and Rebuttal

- Could these be worked more smoothly into the essay?
- Does it need to be treated separately at the end, or could it be included in more detail throughout the essay?
- Is the counter argument a specific argument or is it general?
- Is it cited?

10. Conclusion

Avoid merely repeating the thesis.

- Does the writer refer back to the introduction?
- Does the writer address the question "What's it all mean?"?

Revision Ideas: Essay #3

Overview of Revision Strategies

Okay, you have a rough draft . . . now what? Follow the suggestions below to sharpen your opinion, gain new insights, and come up with new examples.

1. **Organize: focus divisions and body paragraphs**
 - a. Make sure body paragraphs follow divisions.
 - b. Work on one paragraph at a time. (This is the key to successfully revising this [and any] essay). See Roadmap exercise (*I&C* 67)
2. **Titles and Introductions**
 - a. Using the suggestions in *Seagull Handbook* or the examples below, develop a new introduction. NOTE: do not try to reinvent the wheel – try out one of the specific patterns in *I&C* or the ideas in the textbook. Review the sample introductions as well on the pages which follow.
3. **Supply Overview Context**
 - a. Have I cited all the information in the context – even the summaries?
 - b. Have I described each stance so that readers understand them (see in-class work for rough draft of this)?
4. **Connect and explain**
 - a. For each division you have two responsibilities:
 - b. Quote from readings to connect the division to the stance (prove that your selected civic stance supports the idea expressed in the division – i.e. libertarians believe personal behavior should not be regulated; conservatives believe that some personal behaviors should be regulated) and
 - c. Explain why/how each of your divisions is good (or better than the others) for Americans. For instance, why are environmental regulations helpful? Why is it good (or bad) to regulate business? If you haven't done this yet, do it (see “How do I come up with/explain reasons” *I&C* 65).
5. **Specific Examples**
 - a. Work on providing a specific example – a word picture, a description of an interaction – in each ¶ or for each idea. See Revision Ideas Essay #3, “Specific Examples” paragraphs for, well, examples of specific paragraphs.
6. **Repetition**

We've already talked about the importance of repetition (remember in essay #1?), now use it in your paragraphs

 - a. Generate a list of synonyms or words associated with your divisions: use 'm in the appropriate paragraphs
 - b. How do you remind readers, in each paragraph, of your stance? Repeat it. You should have the words “conservatism,” “liberalism,” and “libertarian” throughout each paragraph. And you should have your division words in the appropriate paragraphs (“pollution,” “worker’s rights,” “sex education,” “business regulation,” etc.)
7. **Word Choice**
 - a. Review paragraph #5 in Kasun’s essay (“children”) and paragraph #8 in Brownback’s essay (“callused hands”) for examples of how careful word choice can help sway opinions.
 - b. Use argumentative wording: use Verb List for Citing Sources in *I&C* (76)
 - c. Help readers see the inferences of your arguments by adding phrases such as “This could . . .” “This will . . .”
8. **Library Research**
 - a. Remember to focus not on the stances, but on specific facts. How many teens become pregnant? How many people are on welfare? What does welfare cost? How many businesses close due to government regulation? How many workers have been killed on the job?
 - b. Review search material in “Uh . . . Dr. Bordelon. How do I find sources?” (*I&C* 73). See also the sample research paragraphs in the Revision Essay #3 section of this packet.

Organization

The first thing to revise in your essay is your organization. If the reader cannot clearly tell the point you are making (your thesis) and what you will use to prove that point (divisions/forecasting statement), then all your great descriptions will go to waste. The Organization exercise in *I&C* (67) should help determine which part of your organization needs work.

Remember that you are writing an argumentative essay (evaluations are a form of argument), and thus need to clearly take a stand. You're not merely reporting on these different stances, you're persuading the reader that the stance you've chosen is the best. Make sure your thesis clearly states a preference for one of the stances. Your divisions should state specific reasons why you prefer your civic stance.

As in Essay #1, vary the flow of your information by separating paragraphs within your divisions. One typical way is to define and explain your division in one paragraph, and then use a specific, extended example in the next (see example paragraphs below). However, remember to clearly link each of your paragraphs to a specific word in your division/forecasting statement so the reader can follow your logic and not get lost in your descriptions (there's nothing worse than having to send up a rescue flare while reading an essay – please make the connection because my ceiling gets more scorched every semester).

Explanation and Definition

Focus now on fully explaining and defining your divisions. Does the reader know what you mean by welfare programs? You'd better be specific.

Let's take an example rough draft. This is from Dawn's 1st draft. Her thesis/division statement was

Liberalism is the best civic stance because it believes in equality among Americans, it supports government involvement in the economy and it does not interfere in personal morality issues.

Her first body paragraph follows:

Liberalism is a better political philosophy because it believes in equality. "Liberals insist that government has a responsibility to reduce economic inequality, both through its management of the economy and through welfare programs that redistribute wealth to soften the impact of poverty (252)" It believes health care and education should be available to all. "Government plays a crucial role in promoting the general welfare, refereeing the economy and reducing inequality (251)."

What does she mean by "equality"? I'm not sure, yet it's one of her divisions, so it should be clear to the reader, right?

She includes quotes that seem related to equality, but without explanations, the paragraph isn't persuasive. Dawn saw these problems and worked hard on revision. This is from a later draft:

One reason that liberalism is the best civic stance is because it believes in equality. By equality I mean that there should be no unfairness to any group of society based on race, sex or wealth. History shows how unfair society was. In the past, American society openly discriminated against the poor, anyone who was not white and women. The prejudice went so far as to deny minorities access to public places such as restaurants, buses and schools. The social clubs would use a paper bag to determine who was allowed to enter. Club owners and socialites would hold the paper bag next to your skin and if you were lighter than it you could enter. However, if you were darker than the bag you left in shame.

Due to government involvement, laws have been enacted to correct these issues, supporting the liberal idea of equality. Roger Rosenblatt states that "there are major areas of activity, like the rights of women and of members of minorities, and the environment, that could not have changed the American landscape without great numbers of people agreeing that they wanted government in their lives" (255).

Much improved, eh? Note, in particular, how she defines what she means by equality, offers a context to help readers understand what she means, then links it clearly to liberalism with a quote from Rosenblatt. The only item I see that needs work is that her example about the social clubs needs a source (if it's from personal experience or reported from, say, Uncle Joe, then let the reader know).

In general, the paragraphs for each division need to address the following:

1. *Connect Division To Stance*

You need to show that your stance does, indeed, support/endorse your division

2. *Explain How Supporting/Endorsing This Will Be Good For America*

Here you'll use analogies, history, examples, stories, facts, logic . . . whatever it takes to prove your point.

This two part development will convince readers that your position is valid by the power of accretion. They will agree with your first division, then your second, then your third and think "Heck, he's/she's got some good points. Must be true."

Provide Specific Examples

Continue to work on providing specific examples – a word picture, a description of an interaction – in each paragraph or for each idea. This will help the reader "see" what you're talking about, and thus make your essay more persuasive. Instead of trying to revise your essay all at once, use the writing process. Work on one body paragraph at a time, strengthening your argument by using "show and tell." As I've been mentioning, remember to use "real life" examples – and then connect them with transition words or by repetition to the focus of your paragraph and the readings. This is when the newspaper and magazine articles you've been collecting will come into play.

In the following example, notice how Kim contrasts a specific example of a weak government in a foreign nation with an example of a strong government in America:

At the heart of all liberals' beliefs is a strong central government that is needed for survival. Professor William A. Galston of the University of Maryland tells us that, "A government too weak to threaten our liberties may by that very fact be too weak to secure our rights, let alone advance our shared purpose" (qtd in Rosenblatt 255). This is evidenced by the situation several years ago in Somalia. Without the existence of a strong central power, fighting warlords plunged the country into civil war. There was no strong central government to stop the violence or distribute food to the people. People eventually began to starve to death. The political philosopher, Steven Holmes tells us that this could have been avoided had they had a strong power base because, "only a powerful centralized state could protect individual rights against local strongmen and religious majorities" (qtd in Dionne 259). In the end, because of the lack of a strong central force, the Somalia people were forced to look outside of their borders for help. Not being able to solve their own problems not only caused internal turmoil, but also decreased their stature on the world stage.

Here in America, we have also experienced the need for a strong central government. An example of this was in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. They had been having trouble with their public schools for years. School board officials had employed several superintendents to try and rectify the situation, but the students continually tested below the standard. The state government gave the district a time limit to solve it's own problem. When the deadline passed, and no solution had been found, the state Department of Education had to step in. They appointed a outside panel to evaluate the weaknesses and address them. Unlike Somalia, our government was strong enough to solve the problem before it crippled the entire city's educational system.

The detail in each of these paragraphs results in a very persuasive argument. The only thing she needed was her knowledge of current events (though the example of Somalia was suggested to her by a friend).

Review Requirements

It's time to review the Assignment Sheet and Writer's Guide and start filling in what's missing from your essay. Did you neglect the overview of the other sides? Now's the time to put it in. Do you have enough counterarguments?

Adding an Outside Source

Remember that you must include one source from outside the textbook. Some commonly used sources include employment figures, wealth gap between wealth and poor, environmental abuses by businesses, specific regulations that businesses need to comply with and a range of other issues. Notice that none of these refer directly to any of the civic stances. This is as it should be. The evidence you need should support your divisions, not just mirror what your thesis states.

TABLE 4.11 *Child Abuse: Betraying a Trust*, Ed. Mel Ling Rein, Framington Hills, Michigan: Gale, 2001
Table on page 44.

Incidence rates per 1,000 children for maltreatment under the Harm Standard in the NIS-3 (1993) for different levels of family income

Harm Standard Maltreatment Category	<\$15K/yr	\$15-29K/yr	\$30K+/yr	Significance of Differences
ALL MALTREATMENT	47.0	20.0	2.1	a
ABUSE:				
All Abuse	22.2	9.7	1.6	a
Physical Abuse	11.0	5.0	0.7	a
Sexual Abuse	7.0	2.8	0.4	b
Emotional Abuse	6.5	2.5	0.5	b
NEGLECT:				
All Neglect	27.2	11.3	0.6	a
Physical Neglect	12.0	2.9	0.3	a
Emotional Neglect	5.9	4.3	0.2	ns
Educational Neglect	11.1	4.8	0.2	a
SEVERITY OF INJURY:				
Fatal	0.060	0.002	0.001	ns
Serious	17.9	7.8	0.8	a
Moderate	23.3	10.5	1.3	a
Inferred	5.7	1.6	0.1	b

a All between-group differences are significant at or below the $p < .05$ level.
 b The highest income group (\$30,000 or more) differs significantly from the others (p 's $< .05$), but the difference between the <\$15,000 group and the \$15,000 to \$29,999 group is statistically marginal (i.e., $.10 > p > .05$).
 ns No between-group difference is significant or marginal (all p 's $> .10$).

SOURCE: *The Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect*, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington, D.C., 1996

In the table to the left, what happens as income rises?

How could this information be used in an essay on civic stances?

What does this demonstrate about using research in this (or other) essays?

In the sample paragraph below, where could the writer include additional information?

A libertarian Friedrich says, "A government that might levy taxes to provide healthcare coverage for all or pensions for the old is seen marching down the road to serfdom" (258). Both conservatives and libertarians say we can rely on charitable organization to provide service instead of government. In my opinion we can't rely just on charity. It's not enough. Compared to all the funding we have to do, the money we get from charity would turn out to be a little amount.

Below you'll see how Barbara Miles used specific information about the Head Start program to support her division on children needing help

Liberalism is rooted in social and economic programs to help the least fortunate like children. For example, President Lyndon Johnson instituted the Head Start Program to help children have a productive

educational beginning. Marian Wright Edelman, a civil rights activist, believed in the program and applied for a grant of one and one half million dollars to set up Head Start Centers throughout Mississippi. According to Darcy Olsen, "Since the beginning of Head Start some thirty-five years ago over 17 million white and minority children have passed through the Head Start gates." When he instituted the Head Start Program, President Lyndon Johnson said, "Children are inheritors of poverty's curse and not its creators.... We set out to make certain that poverty's children would not be forevermore poverty's captives" (Olsen). The program was initiated with seven major objectives, setting a high bar of standards and goals to be filled by Head Start (Olsen). James Gallagher points out that Sesame Street - the popular television program for young children that was originally designed to help children in poverty learn basic letters and numbers, explore their environment, and prepare them for school - also began in that era. This very successful program is still running on national television today.

For an example of the kinds of research that might help your essay, consider the following draft and my comments.

Liberalism is a better civic stance because it believes in equality. By believing in equality it stresses the importance of fair and equal rights for everyone: men, women, black, white, rich, and poor. <<<GOOD DEFINITION "The Civil Rights Act of 1964," gave Americans a lot of things that they needed to succeed, but before then people were not treated equally and given the same opportunities (Rosenblatt 253). Roger Rosenblatt states in the past black Americans were not given the same rights as the rest of us, they were not able to eat in the same restaurants, go to public schools, or even vote (253). We have grown into a multi-cultural society where men and women are equal and without those rights we would not have grown as a nation. Now everyone has the same rights as their fellow Americans. Women, poor, and black can all work in the same place as white men.

Without the government putting these laws into effect we would be living in the past without rights. Equal rights among us will make everyone strive for more because they can achieve the same as the next person.

NEED SOME SPECIFCS HERE AS TO HOW THIS HELPS ALL AMERICANS. CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW HAVING MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN A CORPORATION CAN ACTUALLY HELP IT? (MARKETING, ETC.)

Another way liberals share their interest in equality is by supporting government programs to help the American people when they need it. The government needs to take care of the people. Programs such as the GI Bill, welfare, social security and birth control funded programs are an important factor in our economy. The GI Bill was formed by the government giving veterans vouchers to go to college, without this most of the veterans might not have went to college causing a breakdown of society (Dionne 261). The GI Bill gave something back to the American people who served in the armed forces to protect our countries freedom. President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill to guarantee veterans up to four years of college, money for books, and subsistence allowance (VA Department). By the government taking this money to help the veterans now it won't make them needy of support later. <<<HOW ABOUT A STAT ON EARNINGS OF COLLEGE EDUCATED PEOPLE V. NON-COLLEGE.

Welfare can help families out by giving them a "hand up" (Estes 13B). By the government helping them financially in their time of need

with money and or food stamps many Americans can go on to better their lives and that will improve our country. Without welfare families would break-up causing more problems in society. People would turn to illegal activities to support their families<<<HOW ABOUT A STAT ON ECONOMIC STATUS OF PEOPLE WHO COMMIT CRIME? THIS WOULD REALLY CLINCH YOUR POINT.. By the government supporting programs such as free daycare and free job training<<<COMMA people will be more likely to get off welfare sooner. <<<HOW ABOUT SOME PROOF? Social security helps people out with their finances, so that they can continue to live on their own after they retire. Without this extra money some people would not be able to make ends meet and would loose their homes that they worked so hard in their young lives to get. <<<HOW ABOUT A QUICK BACKGROUND ON SS - HOW IT HELPED PEOPLE AND WHAT HAPPENED TO PEOPLE BEFORE SOCIAL SECURITY.

Follow instructions on pages 73 of *I&C* for hints on finding sources.

Introduction and Title

The textbook and *I&C* have several suggestions for an introduction – now’s the time to try some out. I’ve noticed over the years that choosing a particular type of introduction from the examples below or the textbook works better than just going on your own – your call.

To illustrate the range of choice in introductions, consider the examples below.

In her rough draft, Danielle decided to provide context as well as engage the readers:

"The government needs to be downsized. All of these social programs are just giving Americans an excuse to be lazy and not go to work!" Mr. Peterson argues, while sitting in Mr. Smith's house.

"What if you had just lost your job? Welfare would help pay your bills! The economy is not doing so good these days, you know, and citizens are losing their jobs left and right. Without these programs, there would be more homeless people than we could account for!" Mr. Smith retorts.

"I do not think the government should get into our business at all, except to provide protection for us, such as police and military," Mrs. Jones states.

These three people get together every Sunday and talk politics over coffee. They believe that each of their views is the best for America, and an exasperating argument usually takes place.

Mr. Peterson is a conservative, which means he believes in federalism, and does not support government programs for the less fortunate (such as welfare or Social Security). He believes in a free-market economy, and that private behavior should be limited or legislated. He is also not in favor of a lot of change.

Mr. Smith, on the other hand, is a liberalist, and believes in a strong federal government. Because of this, he supports most social programs, and believes that business needs to be governmentally regulated. Also, he is wary of restrictions on private behavior. He is in favor of change, as long as it is beneficial or absolutely necessary.

Finally, Mrs. Jones, the libertarian, believes very strongly in federalism, moreso than the Mr. Peterson. She feels that there should be no restrictions on private behavior, as long as it is not harming anyone else. She favors an extremely free-market economy. She also

does not support government programs for the less fortunate, like Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Smith seems to have the better view on which civic stance is best for America. The liberalist view is the best for our country. It favors social programs for the less fortunate, it is against the limitation of private behavior, and it favors a larger government, unlike a conservative or libertarian.

I thought this was a great start, but she wasn't satisfied with it. Below is the introduction from her final draft

You are walking down a busy New York street on your break, trying to get some fresh air and gather your thoughts. You turn to go into a sub shop to get something to eat, and you hear a raspy voice below you say, "Excuse me, do you have any spare change?" You try not to look down at the poor old man, his face blackened by the grime of the Manhattan streets he has been wandering around for the past few years. You imagine yourself in that position; terminated from your job with nowhere to go. "Too bad there are not any more welfare programs," you think as you look back at the old, poverty-stricken man.

You sit down to a nice Italian sub with a Coke, and hear a husband and wife bickering, outraged about something. You try not to eavesdrop, but they are so loud that the whole store can hear them.

"I cannot believe that my brother cannot marry his boyfriend because of these ridiculous laws on gay marriage!" the woman yells, enraged.

"I know, honey. One day, though, he will be able to be happily married just like we are," her husband tries to comfort her as he cups his hands over hers.

"I know. I just want him to be happy, and this is all just not fair," she sobs.

"Is this what America has come to? We cannot even marry who we want because of these stupid interventions on our private lives! Is this what we call freedom?" you think to yourself as you sip your Coke.

Your break is coming to an end, so you try to get back to the office a little bit early to catch up on some work. You walk down the bustling sidewalk, people occasionally bumping into you. Keeping your head down, eyes on your shoes, you walk past a drug dealer negotiating with someone. He is no more than sixteen years old. Since the government has been downsized, the legalization of prostitution and drugs has made the streets an even more dangerous place. You pick up the pace and hurry to the safety of your office.

Is this really a place that you want to live in? It is sad, poor, unsafe, and definitely not the right choice for America. Certain civic stances may have different ideas about what is best for America. A conservative, for example, favors a smaller government, limits on private behavior, is against social programs for the less fortunate, and is for a free-market economy. A libertarian, on the other hand, believes that government should only be in charge of military and police. A very free-market economy is favorable to a libertarian, and they feel that there should be no restrictions whatsoever on private behavior as long as it is not harming anyone else. According to author David Boaz, "libertarianism is the view that each person has the right to live his life in any way he chooses so long as he respects the equal rights of others" (280). These instances prove that liberalism is the best choice for our country. Liberalism favors social programs for the

less fortunate, is against the limitation of private behavior, and favors a larger government.

Elizabeth Herring, whose introduction is below, brings up an event that was then current, the 2000 presidential election, and ties it into the topic.

America Vote Liberal

On November 7, America will vote for a new president. Politicians are doing their best to sell themselves to the American people. Red, white and blue signs are being put up all around, debates are being broadcast on television and magazines are writing articles about each candidate. At the same time the American people are being juggled by political jesters. Which way will they go? Which way will they go? Democratic or Republican? It seems that is all I focus on this time of the year. What party should I vote for? This year though I am changing my thought process. I am going to look at the candidates civic stances rather than what party they represent. There are many civic stances, the three main ones are, conservatism, libertarianism, and liberalism.

What to Watch Out For

Let's take a look at

Government in our country must be limited. Friedman warns that, "the government's major function must be to protect our freedom both from the enemies outside our gates from our fellow citizens: to preserve law and order, to enforce private contracts, to foster competitive markets" (276). He also says that. "The government may enable us at times to accomplish jointly what we would find it more difficult or expensive to accomplish severely" (...). "We need to rely primarily on voluntary corporation and private enterprise, in both economics and other activities (...)." By doing this we will have an effective protection of freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought" (276).

Freidman also says that, "government power must be dispersed" (276). He feels that" if each state has it's own separate government, then people have more alternatives" (276). Freidman claims that, "if one does not like their local community because of schools, zoning laws or sewage disposals, they can always move to another community" (Freidman 276). He feels that, "with the system that we live in now there are few alternatives if one does not agree with what Washington imposes" (Freidman 276).

What's the problem with these two paragraphs? What's missing from them? Don't focus on the missing citations, instead, look for explanations – the argument. Is it presented in a detailed and convincing fashion? What do you make of the use of quotes?

Additional Tips Supply Context

Remember that for the essay on reporting information (essay #1) you had to supply a context for your research? Well you have to complete a similar section for an evaluative essay as well. Only here your context isn't specific essays; instead, it's a series of philosophical views known as civic stances. Thus you need to explain to your readers, before you begin comparing/contrasting them, just what each of the stances are. Will you need to cite this information? Well, unless you knew what each of these stances were, I'd say the answer is yes.

Elizabeth, whose work is included above, followed her introduction with the following paragraph

Conservatives support local and small governments, and "expect" them to

deliver "tasks that individuals cannot do, such as building highways and maintaining police forces and armies" (Cooper and Peck MacDonald 225). They believe in "individual freedom," and "that people have abandoned many traditional moral principles" (Cooper Peck MacDonald 228). Libertarianism is more extreme than conservatism and liberalism. Libertarians support "individual freedom" and "feel that people are free to make their own decisions about their own lives even if they choose to harm themselves" (Cooper Peck MacDonald 274). They feel that the government does more harm to the American people rather than helping them. Libertarians do not support government aid, and believe that, "it only encourages behavior that most Americans disapprove of" (Cooper and Peck MacDonald 273). Liberals, on the other hand, believe that "the government should protect individual liberties and promote general welfare by providing a safety net for the less fortunate" (Cooper Peck MacDonald 251). Liberals believe it is not the size of the government that is important, but the quality of the government that matters. Also, the government should not interfere with matters of personal morality. "They value individual rights and [are] wary of restrictions on personal behavior" (Cooper and Peck MacDonald 251).

This provides readers with sufficient background to see the basis of Elizabeth's comparison.

What Makes A Good Essay: Part 3

Proofreading

It's the details that count . . . Each error breaks the illusion of communication with the reader. In a good essay, the voice of the writer comes through and it seems as if the person is actually talking to you. In an essay filled with good ideas but marred with proofreading errors, the voice comes through like a cell phone at the edge of its calling area, breaking up and misheard through the static – which leads to aggravation instead of communication.

How do you proofread? For starters, you have to read your essay differently than before. Instead of reading for organization or content, you have to slowly read aloud, paying attention to word choice and experimenting with each sentence until you're satisfied with the sound. This is tedious work, but it pays off; instead of static, your reader will hear your voice clearly.

Look over the suggestions on "Overview on Proofreading" (*I&C* 69) for some pointers – and be sure to come into class on the proofreading day with a "finished" essay.

Proofreading Check List

5. Delete: Take out any words which aren't needed
6. Clarify: Change any phrases that do not read clearly; check punctuation
7. Engage reader: Add analogies (see below), descriptions, examples, sharp phrasing to help readers "see" your point. Vary the sentence structures: use colons to set up a point. Work, as well, on including short transitional/descriptive phrases in your sentence (be sure to separate them from the main sentence with commas). Grab the reader. Try short sentences to get the reader's attention – and use dashes to add a quick additional comment at the end of sentence. Dashes – in moderation – can also be used to set off a quick aside within a sentence.
8. Cohesion: Use repetition to keep reader focused. Supply introductory phrases to quotes and use transitions to move readers through your ideas

Using analogies to engage the reader

When a individual has an addiction, he or she needs to feed the addiction to remain stable. Other times, there is often an "enabler" that helps you carry out the nasty deed. Here in America, poverty is like a bad addiction and the government, through federally funded welfare, is the "enabler." As Amy Goodman notes "Since 1965, we have spent \$5 trillion on the War on Poverty,

[...]. Yet the poverty rate is higher today than it was the year the War on Poverty began" (qtd. in Tuccille). How could we spend so much money and not have any results or a lower poverty rate? In fact, the participants in some cases might be enticed to have a child just for the sake of having a constant income. According to Michael Tanner, "welfare contributes to the rise in out-of-wedlock births and single-parent families." With results like this, it is time for the federal government help the poor break the cycle of addiction.

Citations

Remember that quotes need to be set up by providing a context – setting up for the reader how the quote fits into your argument and why you are using it.

Consider the following sentences

It took a couple of centuries but the liberals were finally able to free the slaves by means of a civil war and the Emancipation Proclamation. Although it still took many, many years for the African-Americans to enjoy true liberty, they were free to lead their own lives. "In certain places, it denied black Americans the right to sit where they wished on a public bus, to drink from a public water fountain, to eat in restaurants, to stay in hotels, to go to public schools with whites or to vote" (253).

As written, the "bus" quote refers back to the time of the Emancipation Proclamation – 1863 – which of course is incorrect. And who wrote this sentence?

It took a couple of centuries, but liberals were finally able to free slaves by means of a civil war and the Emancipation Proclamation. Although it still took many, many years for the African-Americans to enjoy true liberty, they were free to lead their own lives. Yet liberals realized that the battles fought during the Civil War were not finished. As late as the 1960s, Roger Rosenblatt reports that people of color were not allowed "[. . .] to sit where they wished on a public bus, to drink from a public water fountain, to eat in restaurants, to stay in hotels, to go to public schools with whites or to vote" (253).

With this in mind, it's time to tidy up your citations: be sure to introduce each quote with an introductory phrase, and be sure to accurately cite your source, whether you use quotations, summaries, or paraphrases. If citing the introductory material before the essays, be sure to let the reader know who is speaking – and where you got the information from. In particular, you'll need to use "qtd. in" (an abbreviation for quoted in) in your parenthetical citation (count the "in"s in this sentence). This phrase lets the reader know that while you're quoting from a particular person, that person is not included in your works cited sheet. An example will make this clearer.

The following is directly copied from your textbook:

Ronald Dworkin emphasizes this point as well when he explains the social and economic sides of liberalism:

Liberalism has two aspects, and they are both under powerful attack. Liberals believe, first, that government must be neutral in matters of personal morality.

Okay, now you want to use Dworkin's sentence "government must be neutral in matters of personal morality," so you write in your essay:

Ronald Dworkin, in *Liberalism Reconsidered*, notes that most liberals feel "government must be neutral in matters of personal morality" (qtd. in Cooper and Peck MacDonald 252).

You can't just put 252 in the parenthesis, because when readers would look on your works cited page for an entry which reads Dworkin, Ronald, they wouldn't find any. Constructing your sentence in this manner lets the reader know that Ronald Dworkin wrote the words you quote, yet you got the sentence from a work authored by Cooper and MacDonald. Of course you'll have to add Cooper, Robert and Susan Peck MacDonald to your works cited page, but you knew that, didn't you?

How about material from the introductions to each stance? That material is written by the editors, Charles Cooper and Susan Peck MacDonald. Cite in-text as follows.

Charles Cooper and Susan Peck MacDonald note liberal policies "keep powerful individuals or groups from trampling on the rights of the less powerful" (251).

And remember that ANY information taken from an outside source – including the summaries of the stances that you will include in your overview – must be cited. See below for example

Unlike conservatives, liberals believe the government needs to help those in need (Cooper and Peck MacDonald 251).

The work cited entry for Cooper and Peck MacDonald would follow the format for a book. See I&C for specifics.

Proofreading Samples

Business regulations keep a well maintained environment. Roger Rosenblatt, a political theorist, refers to the environment as "One of the less noted but highly significant areas in which government has proved indispensable" (256). Pollution in our air and waterways can come from the lack of effective business regulation. For example, Factories that spew out hazardous chemicals from smoke stacks and pipelines. Another example is the male bass in the Potomac River producing eggs due to "low levels of caffeine, plus the insecticide DEET and chemicals produced when a body breaks down nicotine", given off by local businesses including the Blue Plains sewage plant (Fahrenthold).

Personally, I have a big problem with this and I find it unbelievable how careless so many people can be with the environment. Being an avid outdoorsman, I respect the environment, because we only get one. I find nothing better than being out on the ol' johnboat at five o'clock in the morning fishing with some friends or my father. Sometimes I'd go for sport, other times I put my catches on a long stringer, bring them home, clean them and have a great source of protein for the week. But because of the inefficient business regulation this country has allowed, not only will I get a good source of protein, but I will get a helping of methylmercury and other deadly chemicals. This problem goes beyond me and my fishing, the New Jersey Division of Science, Research and Technology reports

Methylmercury is quickly taken up into higher organisms through the food chain and is retained in their bodies. It reaches the highest levels in large predatory fish and in birds and mammals which consume fish. Levels of methylmercury in fish are typically 100,000 times those in the water in which they swim.

Fish are a part of the food chain therefore these chemicals are transferred beyond fish and our waterways. This problem is not just in NJ, the FDA and EPA are also very involved in eliminating this problem for the entire nation (the New Jersey Division of Science, Research and Technology).

Business regulations are absolutely mandatory, because to have a free-market economy would have an adverse effect general welfare of society. Money should never come before people. E.J. Dionne Jr. reports "the free market is a wonderful instrument that also creates problems and leaves others unsolved" (261). While at first glance it may bring a better economy, Dionne Jr. believes "supporting market-oriented solutions to problems is not the same as suggesting that the market itself, left to its own devices, will solve any problems" (261).

Punctuation Workout

The power of a colon – From Lynne Truss's *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*

A woman, without her man, is nothing.

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Colons

Consider these two versions of the same sentence:

Americans should have the right to choose the lives they want to lead. Lives that may include drug use, prostitution, freedom from safety laws, and most other personal freedoms.

The second sentence – "lives that may" – isn't really a sentence, but an explanation/definition of the "lives" in the first sentence. To set this up more clearly for the readers (and avoid a sentence fragment), try a colon: AKA the emphasize.

Americans should have the right to choose the lives they want to lead: lives that may include drug use, prostitution, freedom from safety laws, and many other personal freedoms.

A bit more forceful, and definitely grammatically correct.

Consider the following original sentence and then revision as well.

While money is something that is important to every American, there is another issue equally as important to any member of our society, health care.

While money is something that is important to every American, there is an equally important issue: health care.

Colons also come in handy when setting up a list:

There are many different civic stances, but I will be concentrating on the three most popular stances in America: liberalism, conservatism, and libertarianism.

And I am proud that for all the mention of colons, I avoided any cheap “poop” jokes.

Dashes

When making a more offhand comment, dashes can separate and emphasize a point:

Liberals agree with the libertarian stance on individual rights to an extent.

Liberals agree with the libertarian stance on individual Rights – to an extent.

Comma(kazi)

The two main uses of commas in this essay will be with an introductory phrase,

If the federal government stopped making and enforcing so many rules and regulations, the American people would be free to make choices in our society.

and to separate a dependent from an independent clause – usually in a descriptive phrase.

The core of libertarianism, as described by David Boaz, revolves around “a society of liberty under law in which individuals are free to pursue their own lives so long as they respect the equal Rights of others” (qtd. in Cooper and Peck MacDonald 284).

By Sheryl Hartmann

Liberals, though, point out that people outside the workforce like the disabled and elderly need aid in order to have housing, health care, and nutrition.

Corrected version:

Liberals point out that people outside the workforce, like the disabled and elderly, often need financial aid for housing, health care, and nutrition.

Transitions

How do you move the reader from paragraph to paragraph? Do you just drop them off and say “I’m starting a new topic so pay attention!”? One technique is the mention a main idea or key word from a previous paragraph in the first sentence of a new paragraph.

Example: *The two sentences below are topic sentences from body paragraphs*

1. Not only will liberalism create more jobs, it also promotes individual freedom.

or

2. But tyrants and dictators are not the only people who like conservatism. Many American politicians who want to keep the working class oppressed also follow conservative doctrines.

For one, the previous paragraph dealt with creating jobs; for two the previous paragraphs dealt with _____?

Checking Previous essays

Now is the time to pull out your previous essays, look over the kinds of errors you made, and work on avoiding them. Did you forget to include introductory phrases with direct quotes on the previous essay? Do so for this essay.

Did you forget to put quotation marks around quotes in your previous essay? Carefully review the readings and your essay and be sure you separate the words from your sources from your own words with quotation marks. Review the overview of proofreading and the proofreading instructions in *I&C*: follow the directions