

ENGL 1302 Projects: Prompts and Outlines

Prewriting Topics (PT) = at least 400 words

DEFINITIONS: An issue is a topic that is **arguable**. It is **arguable** when it provides BOTH benefits (“pro”) AND problems (“cons”). So, the issue has both supporters AND critics. An issue is **personal** when it is part of your own lived experiences and observations. So, you’re either a witness or participant in that issue.

- A. Name a current and arguable issue that interests you personally. First, briefly summarize what the issue is. Then answer these questions: 1) *Why* does it interest you? 2) *How* does the issue affect you (or those you care about)? 3) *What* is your position? 4) *What* are the opponents’ positions? 5) *Where* is there common ground on the issue between you and them?
- B. Name another current and arguable issue that interests you personally. First, briefly summarize what the issue is. Then answer these questions: 1) *Why* does it interest you? 2) *How* does the issue affect you (or those you care about)? 3) *What* is your position? 4) *What* are the opponents’ positions? 5) *Where* is there common ground on the issue between you and them?
- C. Using the “[Twelve Tests of an Arguable Issue](#)” on your A & B issues, select one of them to be the most likely issue that you plan to write your Projects for this course. Which one did you choose?

Student Model: [Prewriting: Consumer Minimalism and Screen Time](#)

Issue Proposal (IP) = at least 700 words

Introduction section (50-100 words)

- A. Ask a question about the issue.
- B. What others say about it.
- C. What I say and why my chosen audience should care. ← **THESIS**

I. Overview: Your current (pre-existing) knowledge of the issue (200 words)

- A. What do I know?
- B. How do I know it (that is, where and when did I learn about it)?

II. Research Plan (200 words):

- A. My preliminary research questions & my speculative answers
- B. Possible sources to find those answers

III. People (200 words):

- A. My audience -- who am I trying to reach?
- B. My allies and opponents -- who could they be?

Conclusion section (50-100 words)

- A. Restate my Thesis
- B. Make a recommendation to my audience

WRITING REMINDER: The IP essay is **NOT** a research paper **NOR** an argument essay. It's an expository essay, explaining 1) what you already know, 2) what you need to do to know more, and 3) who your audience is (when you *eventually* write your Researched Position Paper). Also, your IP final draft should be in [MLA style paper format](#).

See IP Student Models:

[Consumer Minimalism](#)

[Screen Time](#)

Annotated Bibliography (AB) = at least 5 sources, 1000 words

5 sources, total, listed in the Bibliography (alphabetized [Works Cited in MLA Style](#))

- At least 2 of the 5 = provide background info of the issue
- At least 2 of the 5 = provide distinct positions of the issue
 - NOTE: At least 2 of the 5 = peer-reviewed academic or professional journal articles

For each listed source have 1) a centered image of the title page with author name, 2) Works Cited format of source, and 3) in one paragraph (at least 200 words), a 3-part labeled annotation following the “Assessment – Summary – Reflection” sequence below.

IMAGE OF SOURCE'S
TITLE PAGE WITH
AUTHOR NAME

Source documented in MLA (Works Cited) format.

ASSESSMENT OF CREDIBILITY: **A.** Type of Source Genre and evaluation of timeliness. **B.** Author and author’s credibility. **C.** Intended audience of the author.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: **A.** Author’s central claim (main idea). **B.** Author’s supporting reasons. **C.** Author’s evidence and assumptions. **REFLECTION OF**

RESEARCH: How I might use this source later in my Researched Position (Argument) Paper.

WRITING REMINDER: This assignment is NOT an essay. It’s a lengthy Works Cited page, listing your researched sources, with added info after each listed source. Still, **follow MLA style paper format:** page numbering, student ID header, centered title, double-spacing throughout, one-inch margins all around, regular book-style (like Times New Roman, Calibri, and Cambria) font size 12.

RESEARCH ADVICE

For source genres: You can use online journal articles from Dallas College Libraries’ article database (like “Academic OneFile), [reputable web sources](#), personal interviews that you’ve conducted ([field research](#)), and tried-and-true printed texts checked out from Dallas College Libraries (assisted by the librarians). See “[How to Research](#)” Libguide article in Dallas College Libraries for more advice.

See AB Student Model: [Consumer Minimalism](#)

Researched Position Paper = 1400-1900 words, 4-9 sources

INTRODUCTION section (120-150 words)

- A. Ask a question about the issue.
- B. What others say about it. ← OPPOSITIONS' OPINIONS
- C. What I say and why my chosen audience should care. ← **MY CLAIM (that is, MY POSITION)**

I. Background History (300-450 words)

- A. How I became interested in the issue (When & where it started)
- B. Why I am still interested (Present-day)
- C. Transition to Section II.

II. The Opposition's Viewpoint (300-450 words)

- A. What they say and why: their Reasons & Evidence
- B. Transition to Section III.

III. My Rebuttal of the Opposition (300 words)

- A. Their flawed logic/ assumptions and/or their flawed evidence in their reasons
- B. Transition to Section IV

IV. My Viewpoint for My Position (300-450 words)

- A. What I say and why: my Reasons & Evidence
- B. Offer of Compromise, if possible: meeting "in the middle"

CONCLUSION section (100-120 words)

- A. Restate My Claim
- B. Effects (benefits of my position and/or negative consequences of Opposition's)
- C. Final Recommendation.

WRITING & SOURCE DOCUMENTATION REMINDERS:

1) The RPP essay is **an argument essay**. While you must be fair to oppositional viewpoints as you explain their positions, you have NOT changed your mind that your position is "more right" than theirs.

2) Also, while your issue is based on personal experience and interest, the RPP is **an academic essay**, so avoid casual word choices like "you" (especially in the body paragraphs) and slangy idioms as much as possible without sounding like an AI robot. Contractions and use of "I" are fine.

3) Additionally, the RPP is **a research paper**. So --

- Include a [Works Cited page](#) of sources used in your RPP essay. This should be at the END of your RPP essay. Use at **least four** of the sources from your **Annotated Bibliography** (minus the annotations and images).
- If you found other college-level sources for your RPP, verify their credibility before using them. Up to 9 college-level sources (including your sources from your AB).
- Have appropriate [MLA style in-text citations](#) of your sources wherever you used them in your RPP essay. If you're not sure, then whatever appears in the first position of the Works Cited source entry – either author name or “Article Title” if there is no author -- is your trusty friend.

4) Finally, your final draft should be in [MLA style paper format](#).

See RPP Student Model: [Consumer Minimalism](#)