POSITION / ARGUMENT / PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Thesis statement will use the words “must,” “should,” or “ought to.”
List three examples (use whichever you consider to be your strongest argument last)

TEEEC format (i.e., Thesis → Ex1 → Ex2 → Ex3 → Conclusion)

Must use one (only one) documented outside source

2½ - 2¾ pages (including single Work Cited entry at the bottom of page 3)

Choose from the following topics:
capital punishment (death penalty)
corporal punishment (spanking in schools)
single-parent adoption
drivers license permanently revoked for first alcohol-related offense
reinstate the military draft

Follow this format:

First ¶ - Introduction, thesis statement, essay map (following above specifications)

Second ¶ - Begin with an external transition; use the first element of your essay map; use internal transition(s)

Third ¶ - Begin with an external transition; use the second element of your essay map; use internal transition(s)

Fourth ¶ - Begin with an external transition; use the third element of your essay map; use internal transition(s). Here is where you will acknowledge and respond to the opposing point-of-view. Do not give it any weight or credibility; simply say that there are some who see the issue differently. Then, refute the dissenting opinion by employing your documented outside source (which cannot be, for the purposes of this assignment, an electronic source – print source only)

Final ¶ - In your closing paragraph, you may issue a “call to action” or predict the results (or consequences) of embracing (or rejecting) your position.

Place your single Work Cited entry at the bottom of page 3 (no separate Work Cited page for this essay)
INTEGRATING QUOTATIONS INTO YOUR TEXT

Whenever you want to use borrowed material, be it a summary, paraphrase, or a quotation, it's best to introduce the material with a signal phrase—a phrase that alerts the reader that borrowed information is to follow. A signal phrase usually consists of the author's name and a verb. Well-chosen signal phrases help you integrate quotations, paraphrases, and summaries into the flow of your paper. Besides, signal phrases let your reader know who is speaking and, in the case of summaries and paraphrases, exactly where your ideas end and someone else's begin. Never confuse your reader with a quotation that appears suddenly without introduction in your paper. Unannounced quotations leave your reader wondering how the quoted material relates to the point you are trying to make.

UNANNOUNCED QUOTATION

In America, physically attractive people often have unspoken advantages. In spite of claims to the contrary, "attractive people do better in school, where they receive more help, better grades, and less punishment and at work, where they are rewarded with higher pay, more prestigious jobs, and faster promotions" (Ackerman, 541).

In the following revision, the writer has integrated the quotation into the text not only by means of a signal phrase, but in a number of other ways as well. By giving the name of the speaker, referring to her credentials, and noting that she "knows well the importance of beauty," the writer provides more context so that the reader can better understand how the writer meant for the quotation to fit into the discussion.

INTEGRATED QUOTATION

In America, physically attractive people often have unspoken advantages in spite of claims to the contrary. Diane Ackerman, author of A Natural History of the Senses, knows well the importance of beauty; she has seen that "attractive people do better in school, where they receive more help, better grades, and less punishment and at work, where they are rewarded with higher pay, more prestigious jobs, and faster promotions" (541).

How well you integrate a quote, paraphrase, or summary into your paper depends partly on varying your signal phrases and, in particular, choosing a verb for the signal phrase that accurately conveys the tone and intent of the writer you are citing. If a writer is arguing, use the verb argues (or asserts, claims, or contends); if the writer is contesting a particular position or fact, use the verb contests (or denies, disputes, refutes, or rejects). In using verbs that are specific to the situation in your paper, you bring your readers into the intellectual debate as well as avoid the monotony of repeating such all-purpose verbs as says or writes.

You should always try to use a signal phrase that fits the situation in your essay. The following are just a few examples of how you can vary signal phrases to add interest to your paper.

Malcolm X confesses that...
As linguist Deborah Tannen has observed, ...
According to television watchdog Marie Winn, ...
Bruce Catton, noted historian, emphasizes ...
Judith Ortiz Cofer rejects the widely held belief that ...
Gore Vidal enriches our understanding of ...

Here are other verbs that you might use when constructing signal phrases.

- acknowledges
- adds
- admits
- believes
- compares
- declares
- endorses
- grants
- implies
- insists
- points out
- reasons
- reports
- responds
- suggests