

## Persuasive Essay Assignment

*“These are the times that try men’s souls.”*

When Thomas Paine wrote these words, the American soldiers were tired, despondent and ready to give up. Paine’s words inspired Americans to look at the war differently, to search their souls and find the strength to continue to fight for a cause that they found to be just.

For this first persuasive essay, you are to choose an issue that tries your soul today. This issue should be something that you are confronted with, and ultimately unhappy with, in your immediate world. What things at school, at your work, or in your social circles would you like to change? How can you convince others to join your cause?

In your essay you need to include the following things:

- An introduction that familiarizes your audience with the issue at hand as well as a clear thesis stating your position
- Body paragraphs stating and explaining your arguments/reasons for your position (need at least 3 reasons to support your thesis)
- Refutation of the opposition: anticipate opposition’s argument and address and counter
- A conclusion that summarizes key points and offers a solution

Your essay should follow standard MLA formatting rules and should be one to two pages in length. Because this is a preliminary essay, you do not need to cite research unless you so choose; thus, you should choose a topic that you are familiar and comfortable with and can discuss at length.

Due Thursday, September 28 by 6:00 pm.