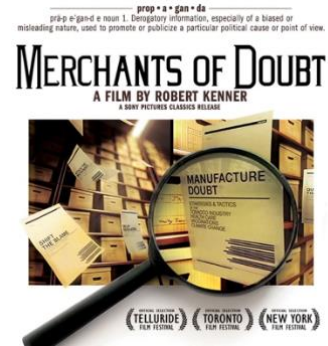---

Writing Project #1: Arguing a Position

Background: In the mid 1990s, the IPCC, led by climate scientists from the United States and around the world, argued that governments and corporations must begin taking swift and immediate action to address the climate crisis. Twenty-five years later, although we have implemented some changes and policies, we have not supported major, systemic solutions to the climate crisis in the United States. Why have we been slow to address the crisis? What is holding us back from implementing the major actions needed to address this urgent problem?

The Assignment Prompt: Given what you have read this quarter, what is one major reason have we been slow to address the climate crisis in the United States with major solutions? Using course materials, develop a theory or hypothesis that addresses this question. Persuade your audience that your theory is a reasonable and well-supported response (instead of the single right answer).

By asking you to develop a theory, I am inviting you to consider the different perspectives in the conversation that we have explored in the first three weeks of class. Using this conversation as a starting point, develop the following in your project: Introduce readers to the subject and the conversation. Describe your theory, using examples to illustrate your point. Support your theory with reasons and evidence. Acknowledge, concede, and/or refute the most likely objection that readers would provide for your theory. Cite your sources and document them using a formatted Works Cited page.

Intended Audience: As you draft and revise your project, it may help to imagine that you are writing to an audience of your fellow peers in this class.

Details for Submission

1. **Formatting, Title and Word Count:** Your project should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and 11- or 12-point font. It should have a creative title. The proper length should be approximately 1200-1500 words.

2. **The Cover Letter:** Once you ready to submit your project, you MUST include a typed, double-spaced, 1-page (250-350 words) cover letter that is attached to the **front** of your paper. You should write a letter that begins with, "Dear (my name). Begin by reflecting on your prior knowledge of your subject before you took this class. What did you know or think about this subject? Did you have strong belief systems or emotions about it? Give examples and explain. Had you ever written a project like this before? What were your concerns as you began writing?

   Then, reflect on what you learned about the subject of the project (the topic) and about the writing you did. Focus on the most meaningful parts of what you learned. Some ideas include: Did you learn anything new or different about the content that surprised you or that you did not know before? Explain with details. What did you learn about aspects of writing (such as the writing process, using evidence, showing vs. telling etc.)? What did you learn about trying to appeal to your intended audience?

3. **The Works Cited Page and Acknowledgments Statement**: You must cite all sources in <u>MLA format</u> and include a properly formatted Works Cited page. After your Works Cite page, you must include a brief "Acknowledgements Statement." The Acknowledgements Statement allows you to document other sources of help and feedback as you wrote your paper. This includes any assistance you received at any stage of writing, from your instructor, classmates, friends, and tutors—anyone or any source that has helped you (including Grammerly and other online sources).

How will your writing be evaluated and graded on this project?

Major Categories	Questions for Evaluation
Introduction and Thesis	Does the Project have an effective title? Does the introduction present the subject (and background information) in a clear and interesting way to prepare the reader for the thesis? Does it provide a clear thesis (in one or more sentences) that addresses the writer's main theory or hypothesis?
Description of the theory	Does the Project describe the writer's theory in a clear and engaging with for the audience? Does the Project use an example(s) to illustrate the theory?
Reasoning and Evidence for the theory	Does the Project provide reasons or justification for the theory? Does the Project use evidence and examples to support its reasoning? Does it focus more on "showing" or "telling"? Are evidence/examples introduced, analyzed, and cited successfully? Does the Project acknowledge, concede, and/or refute a reader's likely objection to the theory? Are the in-text citations properly formatted and linked to a Works Cited page?
*Overall clarity of writing	How clear and readable is the writing (for readers)? Are paragraphs focused on a single controlling idea? Are sentences written in reader-friendly prose (such as by using active voice)?
Overall Success of the Project for the Audience	Does the project accomplish the writer's purpose of arguing for a theory that explains the prompt's main question? Does the project have something to say? And a clear and engaging way to say it?

*NOTE: Recall our lessons from week 1. There are many ways to communicate clearly and effectively. There is no single form of "good writing." Your style & language should reflect consistent, intentional choices for your audience. We strongly encourage writers not to try and mimic "academic sounding" prose.