

# “My Dog Ate My Homework: Why Argument Matters” EN102: Research & Argumentation (Spring 2009)

*“Free thinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential...” – Leo Tolstoy*

**Instructor:** Michael Marberry  
**Email:** [INSERT]

**Office:** Rowan-Johnson 15  
**Office Hours:** MWF 3:00-4:00 p.m. (by appt.)

### Required Texts:

- Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. 6th Custom Edition (University of Alabama).
- Roen, Duane et. al. *The McGraw-Hill Guide to Writing for College, Writing for Life*. 1st Edition.

### Course Description & Goals:

EN102 is the second half of a two-course sequence traditionally called Freshman Composition, where you will work on developing your skills as a collegiate-level writer. This course may challenge you at times. However, I am confident that we can persevere together and make this class a helpful and worthwhile experience.

Below are the goals I hope we can achieve this semester:

- Understand the elements of formal argumentation – including Aristotelian, Toulmin, and Rogerian argumentation.
- Apply principles of argumentation in writing and understand that various disciplines apply these principles in different ways.
- Learn how to locate source material in the library and online, how to read and evaluate these materials critically, how to analyze and summarize point-of-view and assumptions, and how to synthesize and incorporate sources into extended papers.
- Understand that citation formats vary from discipline to discipline and be able to use at least one citation format correctly.
- Understand ethical academic research – including appropriate use of paraphrase, summary, and quotations from sources.

### Course Summary:

This course is organized around an extended paper project throughout the entire semester with five smaller supplemental projects along the way.

<b>Assignment:</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Percent:</b>
Participation, Daily Work, & Homework	Throughout Semester	10%
What's an Argument? (Paper Proposal/Presentation)	Monday, February 2	10%
Everyday Arguments (Visual Aid Analysis)	Monday, February 23	15%
Supporting Our Arguments (Annotated Bibliography)	Friday, March 13	15%
Counter-Arguments (Opposing View Essay)	Wednesday, April 8	15%
Writing Our Argument (Major Research Essay)	Friday, April 24	30%
Course Reflection (Final Exam)	Final Exam Session	5%

### **Percentage Grade Breakdown:**

A+: 98-100%	A: 93-97%	A-: 90-92%
B+: 88-89%	B: 83-87%	B-: 80-82%
C+: 78-79%	C: 73-77%	C-: 70-72%
D+: 68-69%	D: 63-67%	D-: 60-62%
F: 59% and below		

### **Grading and ABC-NC Policy:**

Written work will be evaluated in four areas: Content, Organization, Style, and Mechanics.

- “A” work must be excellent in all four;
- “B” work must be good in all four;
- “C” work must be at least competent in all four;
- “D” work is marginally below college standards in at least one of the four;
- and “F” work is clearly below minimum college standards in one of the four.

Work that does not follow the assignment (though otherwise acceptable) will also receive an “F.” Work that is not done or not turned in is recorded as a zero. All major papers will be graded and returned before the next major assignment is due. Final grades for the class below “C-“ are given a mark of “NC” (or “No Credit”), which does *not* reflect on your GPA but will require you to re-take the course.

### **Attendance Policy:**

The university’s attendance policy states:

- Successful students attend class regularly and are not tardy for class.
- Major graded work (such as tests and papers) missed due to legitimate circumstances beyond the student’s control may be made-up if arrangements are made with instructor in advance, or in a timely fashion upon the student’s return to class.
- The lectures, class discussion, group work, and other daily exercises in a writing class cannot be reconstructed for a student who has been absent; therefore, daily work missed due to an absence or tardiness (for any reason) cannot be made-up.
- Students who miss more than 20% of class meetings may receive a grade of NC; such cases, and those of disputed multiple or extended absences, will be referred to the Department Chair for review. Especially difficult cases may be forwarded to the Dean of Arts and Sciences for adjudication.
- This should not be understood as the number of classes you are allowed to miss; rather, it sets the outside limits after which the higher administration of the University may become involved in the grading process.

### **Late Major Paper/Project Policy:**

Papers / Projects are due on their assigned date, and I *only* accept hard-copies of these assignments (i.e. **NO** email or electronic copies accepted). Final grades for major papers will be reduced by 10% for *each* day (not class session) that they are late. Papers / Projects that are more than 4 days late will not be graded and will automatically receive a zero.

If you know that your paper is going to be late in advance, you need to contact me via email and set up an appointment to meet with me. Also, I realize that unforeseen circumstances can arise that may be out of your control. If that happens, let me know as soon as possible via email, and we can discuss our options – which *may* involve you making up work in a timely fashion.

### **Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism Statement:**

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academic or related matter and any knowing or intentional help, attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts, when performed in any type of academic or academically related matter, exercise, or activity:

- Cheating – using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information.
- Plagiarism – representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own.
- Fabrication – presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material.
- Misrepresentation – falsifying, altering, or mistaking the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

The University of Alabama has a rigorous system in place to review and rule on matters involving plagiarism, cheating, and other issues of suspected academic misconduct. For your own benefit, I would both encourage you to familiarize yourself with the university's policy regarding plagiarism and deeply urge you to avoid placing yourself in such a situation. More information about academic standards and procedures can be found at: <http://catalogs.ua.edu/catalog08/502000.html>

### **Student Conduct, Classroom Decorum, & Cultural Diversity:**

The Code of Student Conduct requires that students behave in a manner that is conducive to a teaching/learning environment. Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive or obstructive to the teaching/learning environment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined by the Code of Student Conduct.

Disruptive/obstructive behavior includes (but is not limited to) the following: physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances, possession of alcoholic beverages, cell phone use (including texting), etc.

Do *NOT* bring your laptop to class, unless I've give you prior permission. ***Turn off your cell phone during class!!!*** Unless I've given you prior permission, you should not talk or text on your phone during class.

One of the truly great things about college life is that it brings together people with a wide array of personal/cultural beliefs and experiences. Because of this, for our class to be successful, a certain level of trust, decorum, and respect must exist among all participants. Any act that compromises, endangers, or disrespects either the instructor or one (or many) of your fellow classmates will absolutely not be tolerated.

### **Student Disabilities:**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. I will be happy to

help you. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 205-348-4285 or visit 133B Martha Parham East to register for services.

**Late Instructor Instructions:**

If I am late and there is no notice on the door, please wait ten minutes. If I still haven't shown up after ten minutes, please send someone to the First-Year Writing Program Office (Morgan Hall 207) to tell them that I was not in class.

**Chain-of-Command for Complaints:**

If you have a problem with anything that happens in this class, please see me first. If we are unable to resolve this problem, the chain-of-command is as follows: Jessica Kidd (Associate Director of First-Year Writing); Dr. Karen Gardiner (Director of First-Year Writing).

**The University of Alabama Writing Center:**

The Writing Center – located in Morgan Hall – is a free service for students interested in developing their writing. The Writing Center is *not* a proof-reading center (meaning they won't "fix" your paper for you); rather, they will work with you one-on-one to help improve your writing among various facets of the writing process.

The Writing Center hours can be viewed at their website: [www.as.ua.edu/writingcenter](http://www.as.ua.edu/writingcenter). While the Writing Center accommodates walk-in clients, I'd suggest making an appointment on their website to insure that a tutor will be available.

**eLearning:**

Over the course of the semester, we'll be using eLearning as a hub for many of our resources for this class. You can access eLearning by logging into MyBama, clicking on the "Student" tab at the top, and then clicking on the appropriate eLearning link at the top right. On our eLearning page, you'll be able to access the syllabus & schedule, homework readings, major assignment sheets, the extra-credit assignment sheet, etc.

You'll probably discover that eLearning is pretty basic and relatively easy to navigate. However, if you have any questions at all, please let me know.

**Extra Credit:**

A single opportunity exists for you to earn extra credit on your final grade for EN 102. For this extra credit assignment (which you can only do once during the semester), you will choose a documentary film from the pre-approved list, watch said film, and then write a 2-3 page analysis of the argument put forth by that film.

If this extra credit analysis completes all of the stipulations of the assignment, the student will earn one (1) point that will then be added to his/her final average for the class. Again, each student may only complete one extra credit analysis per semester, which can be turned in anytime during that semester – *but no later than Monday, April 27 by 4:00 p.m. (to me or in my mailbox in the Morgan Hall English Office).*

## Course Schedule

- This schedule is subject to revision at my discretion.
- Bring your EN 102 books & relevant homework materials to class *each* day.
- Come prepared to write every day.
- BOOK KEY:** Roen = *The Brief McGraw-Hill Guide to Writing for College, Writing for Life*  
Hacker = *A Writer's Reference*  
Handout = Paper handout, eLearning article, or emailed .pdf file

### **UNIT ONE: What's An Argument?**

#### **Wednesday, 1/7 – Welcome to Class!**

- Review syllabus

#### Homework:

- Sign academic misconduct and plagiarism statement
  - Study for EN 102 course syllabus quiz
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#### **Friday, 1/9 – Getting to Know You**

- Quiz over EN 102 course syllabus
- Student informational sheets
- Group work

#### Homework:

- Read pps. 721-725 (Roen)
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#### **Monday, 1/12 – Rhetorical Triangle**

- What's an argument?
  - Read pp. 718-719 (Roen)
- Discuss homework reading
  - Roen pps. 721-725
- The Rhetorical Triangle

#### Homework:

- Read pps. 732-734, “Beware the Online Collective” by Jaron Lanier (Roen)
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#### **Wednesday, 1/14 – Aristotelian Model**

- Discuss Aristotelian/Classical Model of Argumentation
- Discuss homework reading
  - “Beware the Online Collective” by Lanier

#### Homework:

- Read “The Declaration of Independence” by Thomas Jefferson (eLearning)
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#### **Friday, 1/16 – Aristotelian Model**

- Review Aristotelian/Classical Model of Argumentation
- Analyze homework reading as Aristotelian/Classical argument

- “The Declaration of Independence” by Jefferson

Homework: (\*\*FOR WEDNESDAY, 1/21\*\*)

- Read pps. 736-738, “But I Didn’t Do It!” by Stanley Fish (Roen)
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**Monday, 1/19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

- No Class!!!
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**Wednesday, 1/21 – Toulmin Model**

- Discuss Toulmin Model of Argumentation
- Discuss homework reading
  - “But I Didn’t Do It!” by Fish

Homework:

- Read “On the Implausibility of the Death Star’s Trash Compactor” by Joshua Tyree (eLearning)
- 

**Friday, 1/23 – Toulmin Model**

- Review Toulmin Model of Argumentation
- Analyze homework reading as Toulmin argument
  - “On the Implausibility of the Death Star’s Trash Compactor” by Tyree

Homework:

- Read pps. 740-742, “Nothing But Nets” by Rick Reilly (Roen)
- 

**Monday, 1/25 – Rogerian Model**

- Discuss Rogerian Model of Argumentation
- Discuss homework reading
  - “Nothing But Nets” by Reilly

Homework:

- Read “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King Jr. (eLearning)
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**Wednesday, 1/27 – Rogerian Model**

- Review Rogerian Model of Argumentation
- Analyze homework reading as Rogerian argument
  - “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by King Jr.

Homework:

- No Homework!!!
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**Friday, 1/29 – Argumentation Review**

- Review argumentation concepts and models
- Review Paper Proposals and Presentations

Homework:

- Paper Proposals DUE – Monday, 2/2 by 4 p.m. in Morgan Hall English Office
  - Group 1 Presentations DUE – Monday, 2/2
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**Monday, 2/2 – Presentation Day!**

- Group 1 Presentations

- Paper Proposals DUE – by 4 p.m. in my mailbox in the Morgan Hall English Office

Homework:

- Group 2 Presentations DUE – Wednesday, 2/4
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**Wednesday, 2/4 – Presentation Day!**

- Group 2 Presentations

Homework:

- Group 3 Presentations DUE – Friday, 2/6
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**Friday, 2/6 – Presentation Day!**

- Group 3 Presentations

Homework:

- Read “Observing the Ordinary” (eLearning)
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**UNIT TWO:  
Everyday Arguments**

**Monday, 2/9 – Visual Arguments**

- Discuss homework reading
  - “Observing the Ordinary”
- Discuss vocabulary for visual texts
- Advertisements as everyday arguments
  - Class practice

Homework:

- Read “Writing About Advertisements” (eLearning)
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**Wednesday, 2/11 – Ad Analysis**

- Review vocabulary for visual texts
- Group work
  - Analyze advertisement

Homework:

- No Homework!!! (but you should start looking for a visual to analyze for your Visual Ad Analysis major assignment)
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**Friday, 2/13 – Review & Practicum**

- Review vocabulary for visual texts
- Practicum
  - Analyze advertisement

Homework:

- Study for quiz over vocabulary for visual texts
  - Read “Chevy takes value, volume message, and wraps it in a flag” by Nick Lico (eLearning)
- 

**Monday, 2/16 – Ads: Demographics**

- Quiz over vocabulary for visual texts
- Discuss homework reading
  - “Chevy takes value, volume message, and wraps it in a flag” by Lico
- Question to consider:
  - How do our arguments change depending on the age/race/class/sex/culture/etc. of our audience?
- Group work
  - Analyze different advertisements along demographic lines

Homework:

- No Homework!!!
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**Wednesday, 2/18 – Ads: Then & Now**

- Question to consider:
  - How do our arguments change over time?
- Group work
  - Analyze different advertisements along temporal lines

Homework:

- No Homework!!!
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**Friday, 2/20 – Review & Practicum**

- Review Visual Advertisement Analysis assignment
- Practicum
  - Analyze advertisement

Homework:

- Visual Advertisement Analysis DUE Monday, 2/23 – by 4 p.m. in the Morgan Hall English Office
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**UNIT THREE:  
Supporting Our Arguments**

**Monday, 2/23 – Why Research?**

- Visual Ad Analysis DUE by 4 p.m. in my mailbox in Morgan Hall English Office
  - Question to consider:
    - What is research and why is it important?
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**Wednesday, 2/25 – TBA**

- Complete library assignments for visit on Friday, 2/27
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**Friday, 2/27 – Library Visit**

- Meet in Gorgas Library for discussion about some of the resources that the university’s library has to offer as you work on your Annotated Bibliography and your Major Research Essay
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**Monday, 3/2 – Finding/Evaluating Research**



- Reviewing lessons learned from library visit
  - Questions to consider:
    - What kind of sources are good/strong/credible/relevant/etc.?
    - What kind of sources are bad/weak/misleading/irrelevant/etc.?
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### **Wednesday, 3/4 – Summarizing & Incorporating Research**

- Questions to consider:
    - When should you consider summarizing a source?
    - When should you consider paraphrasing a source?
    - When should you consider directly quoting a source?
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### **Friday, 3/6 – Writing an Annotated Bibliography**

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#### **Monday, 3/9 – MLA Style**

- Discuss Works Cited page
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#### **Wednesday, 3/11 – MLA Style**

- Discuss in-text citations

#### Homework:

- Annotated Bibliography DUE Friday, 3/13 – by 4 p.m. in the Morgan Hall English Office
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#### **Friday, 3/13 – MLA Style**

- Review MLA Style
    - In-text citations
    - Works Cited page
  - Review Annotated Bibliography assignment one last time
  - Annotated Bibliography DUE today by 4 p.m. in my mailbox in Morgan Hall English Office (remember...I won't accept late turn-ins for this particular assignment!)
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#### **Monday, 3/16 – Spring Break**

- No Class!!!
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#### **Wednesday, 3/18 – Spring Break**

- No Class!!!
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#### **Friday, 3/20 – Spring Break**

- No Class!!!
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## **UNIT FOUR: Counter-Arguments**

#### **Monday, 3/23 – Considering Opposing Arguments**

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#### **Wednesday, 3/25 – Logical Fallacy Day #1**

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**Friday, 3/27 – Practicum**

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**Monday, 3/30 – Logical Fallacy Day #2**

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**Wednesday, 4/1 – Logical Fallacy Day #3**

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**Friday, 4/3 – Practicum**

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**Monday, 4/6 – Logical Fallacy Day #4**

Homework:

- Opposing View Essay DUE Wednesday, 4/8 – by 4 p.m. in the Morgan Hall English Office
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**Wednesday, 4/8 – Logical Fallacy Review Day**

- Review Opposing View Essay assignment one last time
  - Opposing View Essay DUE by 4 p.m. in my mailbox in Morgan Hall English Office
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**Friday, 4/10 – Honor’s Day**

- No Class!!!
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**UNIT FIVE:  
Writing Our Argument**

**Monday, 4/13 – Review Day**

- Bring any questions that you have to class for Q&A session
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**Wednesday, 4/15 – Review Day**

- Bring any questions that you have to class for Q&A session
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**Friday, 4/17 – Review Day**

- Bring any questions that you have to class for Q&A session
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**Monday, 4/20 – Mandatory Conferences**

- No Class!!! (but don’t forget to show up to your scheduled conference...check eLearning if you’ve forgotten where the conferences are or what time you signed up for...)
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**Wednesday, 4/22 – Mandatory Conferences**

- No Class!!! (but don’t forget to show up to your scheduled conference...check eLearning if you’ve forgotten where the conferences are or what time you signed up for...)
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**Friday, 4/24 – Mandatory Conferences**

- No Class!!! (but don’t forget to show up to your scheduled conference...check eLearning if you’ve forgotten where the conferences are or what time you signed up for...)
- Major Research Paper DUE by 4 p.m. in my mailbox in Morgan Hall English Office

Homework:

- Extra Credit Assignment DUE Monday – by 4 p.m. in the Morgan Hall English Office (optional)
  - Optional Group 1 Presentations on Monday, 4/27
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**Monday, 4/27 – Optional Presentation Day!**

- Optional Group 1 Presentations
  - For 1-5 extra points added to your Major Research Paper grade (you aren't required to give this presentation; however, it can only help your grade...I strongly recommend it...)
- Extra Credit Assignment DUE today – by 4 p.m. in the Morgan Hall English Office (optional)

Homework:

- Optional Group 2 Presentations on Wednesday, 4/29
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**Wednesday, 4/29 – Optional Presentation Day!**

- Optional Group 2 Presentations
  - For 1-5 extra points added to your Major Research Paper grade (you aren't required to give this presentation; however, it can only help your grade...I strongly recommend it...)

Homework:

- Optional Group 3 Presentations on Friday, 5/1
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**Friday, 5/1 – Optional Presentations**

- Optional Group 3 Presentations
  - For 1-5 extra points added to your Major Research Paper grade (you aren't required to give this presentation; however, it can only help your grade...I strongly recommend it...)

Homework:

- Prepare for your Final Exam assignment
    - EN 102-070 (MWF 1:00 – 1:50): TUESDAY, 5/5 @ 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
    - EN 102-047 (MWF 2:00 – 2:50): FRIDAY, 5/8 @ 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
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