# English Composition I – Argumentative Essay Assignment

**Assignment Title: *Taking a Stand: Developing a Clear, Evidence-Based Argument***

## Overview:

In this assignment, you will write a **1,200–1,500 word argumentative essay** on a contemporary issue of your choice. The goal is to develop a clear position on the topic and support your claims with credible evidence, including at least **three scholarly sources**. This essay should demonstrate your ability to craft a focused argument, analyze differing viewpoints, and communicate ideas effectively in writing.

## Objectives:

* Develop a clear thesis statement that articulates your position
* Use logical reasoning and persuasive techniques to support your claims
* Incorporate and cite credible sources using MLA format
* Address opposing viewpoints and respond to counterarguments
* Demonstrate clear organization, paragraph development, and transitions

## Possible Topics (you may choose one of these or propose your own with approval):

* Should social media platforms be held legally responsible for the spread of misinformation?
* Is a college degree still worth the cost in today’s job market?
* Should college campuses be gun-free zones?
* Do influencers have a moral responsibility to their followers?
* Should AI tools like ChatGPT be allowed in academic settings?

## Requirements:

* Length: 1,200–1,500 words (approximately 4–5 double-spaced pages)
* Format: MLA (12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins)
* Sources: Minimum of 3 scholarly sources (peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, etc.)
* In-text citations and Works Cited page in proper MLA format

## Due Dates:

* **Topic Proposal & Thesis Statement** – [Insert Date]
* **Rough Draft for Peer Review** – [Insert Date]
* **Final Draft** – [Insert Date]

## Evaluation Criteria:

* Clarity and strength of thesis (20%)
* Use of evidence and support (25%)
* Organization and coherence (20%)
* Engagement with counterarguments (10%)
* Grammar, style, and mechanics (15%)
* MLA formatting and citation (10%)