How to Start


2. You will now see a page with one or more questions on it. Click on one of the questions.

3. Now you'll get a more comprehensive page about your subject. You should see article links on the right, under "perspectives" and/or "features." Pick an article and click on it.

4. Pick any middle paragraph from the article that makes a point in at least three sentences.

5. Write a paragraph, imagining it to be a middle paragraph in your own essay, that argues against your chosen paragraph. (It doesn't matter how you really feel about the issue. Argue against whatever position you've found.) Use at least three quotations to make your case.

Writing Guidelines

1. Use MLA documentation. If your chosen article has no page numbers, you can omit the citations in your paragraph, but you still need a "Work(s) Cited" page. Give at least this information:

   Last name, First name. "Title." URL.

2. Use no "to be" verbs. We know that "to be" verbs have their place, but I want to encourage all of you to think carefully about every decision to use one. Therefore, as practice, avoid them entirely in this assignment.

3. Write in the active voice. See the reasoning behind #2.

4. Try to limit prepositional phrases.

5. Remember that, when you have no parenthetical citation (the name and page number in parenthesis from MLA style), periods and commas come inside quotation marks. "Like this." Other punctuation comes inside if it forms part of the quotation, outside if it does not. Take these examples:

   What do you mean when you say, "Write in the active voice"?
   A student asked, "Why can't I write in the active voice?"

1 The "URL" is the web address, the thing that starts with "http://."