

Crouch ENG III

Dakota Pipeline Persuasive Letter Assignment

Task: To research **BOTH SIDES** of the arguments surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline and write a persuasive letter to government officials in which you take a position on whether or not construction should continue on the pipeline.

Your letter should:

- Incorporate use of Ethos, Logos and Pathos (easy on the pathos)
- Be at least 5 paragraphs long with an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
- Have an introductory paragraph that includes a clearly defines **thesis statement** that indicates three clear points that you are making to support your position.
- Be double spaced
- Use MLA Formatting for all citations
- Include a **WORKS CITED PAGE!**
- Be written in **THIRD PERSON!** (No use of “I believe”, “I think”, or “I’m writing about”)

Writing Tips

1. Decide on the position you are taking. Remember that you are arguing for a position and you are trying to convince your reader that your position is the right one. Acknowledge the other side, but point to the flaws in the other position. Strive for balance. A persuasive letter is not a one-sided rant. Your tone should be firm and reasonable.
2. DO YOUR RESEARCH! Be knowledgeable about the topic, consider both points of view and write from an educated platform.
3. State your position as a thesis statement in which you list the three major reasons for your argument.
4. Develop a separate body paragraph for each reason stated in your thesis. Acknowledge the other position, but present reasons why it is not supportable.
5. Reaffirm your position in your conclusion. Restate the three main arguments from your thesis.

Research: There is a lot of biased information out there and a lot of pathos arguments perpetuated by the media. Make sure you are looking at sites that provide the facts for both sides of the problem. Your argument will be more valid if you educate yourselves on both sides of the debate. This is true for this assignment AND for life! The following sites are good examples and may be used in your research:

- <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/07/us/dakota-access-pipeline-visual-guide/>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-dakota-access-pipeline-protests/2016/09/07/ac9a6f50-7546-11e6-9781-49e591781754_video.html
- <http://www.dapipelinefacts.com/> (The Pipeline’s Side)
- <http://standwithstandingrock.net/history/> (The Standing Rock side)
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/02/us/standing-rock-front-lines.html>
- <http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/infrastructure/a23658/dakota-pipeline-protests/>
- <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/303386-both-sides-in-tense-dakota-access-fight-appeal-to-feds-for-help>