**11 AP English Persuasive News Commentary**

Please select an article from a website such as the *New York Times, USA Today, Newsweek*, etc. As you select articles ask yourself, what is the author’s purpose? Who is the intended audience? Does it use any of the three appeals? Is the argument convincing, and Is the author credible? Evaluating and critiquing these articles allow you the opportunity to analyze a variety of topics. Working with short, manageable pieces is critical for this class. It is my hope that you will begin to internalize this information as you write your own essays. The article that you select must lend itself to argument**;** it must address a controversial subject. ***Make sure the source is reliable and credible. Finally, DO NOT USE WIKAPEDIA.* \*\*If an article does not have an author, find another one\*\***

Procedure:

At the top of your paper, you should cite the article using MLA style format and documentation.

Next, Give the author’s claim in your own words.

List three pieces of evidence (direct quotes) from the article that supports the author’s claim.

**Counterargument**

Construct an argument/claim that opposes the author’s claim.

Commentary Paragraph: Please write a paragraph that analyzes and critiques the author’s argument. Please be sure to **state** whether **you** will **defend, support, challenge, refute, concede, or qualify** the author’s claim. Your argument must include evidence from the passage. Grammar and spelling will be graded, as well. Please incorporate the evidence quotes into this paragraph. You must use at least one direct quote from the article in this paragraph; the other quotes should be paraphrased.

**The Elements of Persuasion/Argument**

**1. Argument—**A process of reasoned inquiry; a persuasive discourse resulting in a coherent and considered movement from a claim to conclusion.

**2. A Claim,** assertion, or proposition is the position a writer takes on an issue. A claim states the argument’s main idea or position. A claim is arguable.

3. **Reasons** are statements that explain why an author has a certain opinion.

4. **Evidence** is the information that authors use to support their claim: facts, statistics, examples, opinions and quotes from experts.

**5. Defend or support** is to provide evidence that shows the validity of the author/writer’s claim.

**6. Challenge—**Provide evidence to explain why you disagree with the author/writer’s claim.

**7. Qualify--**A restriction placed on the claim to state that it may not always be true as stated. A qualifying thesis statement compromises adopts both sides and offers up a middle ground solution.

**8. Refutation** is an attack on an opposing view in order to weaken it, invalidate it, or make it less credible. By showing what is wrong with the author’s reasoning, you demonstrate that you have studied the issue thoroughly and have reached the only conclusion that reasonable people could reach.

9. **Concede**—A **concession** is an expression of concern for the feelings of those who may disagree with the writer’s position. Acknowledges as proper or true. Using **concession** is a good way to overcome the reader’s resistance to a controversial position. A **concession** is a vital part of a **logical and ethical appeal**.

Here are **terms** useful in making a **concession**: Admittedly, I concede that, Even though, Granted, It goes without saying that, I can’t argue with, Perhaps…, yet, While it is true that, Undoubtedly, Yes…, but

10**. Primary source** is a firsthand account. These writers present their experiences, opinions, and ideas. Ex. Essays, autobiographies, eyewitness news reports, speeches, editorials

11. **Secondary source** is a secondhand account. These writers summarize, analyze, and interpret events in which they did not participate. Ex. Encyclopedias, reference books, textbooks, magazines, biographies