

## HP Chemistry: Fall Semester Project Persuasive Essay

**You must choose from one of the following topics:** [multiple projects on the same topic will be discouraged; first-come, first-served for topic selection]

1. The worst chemical disaster of all time.
2. The greatest chemical discovery of all time.
3. The most important chemical to \_\_\_\_\_ (**choose from** – sports, entertainment, medicine, technology, construction, or transportation).

### Due Dates:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Topic area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thesis statement (backed up by some preliminary research; i.e. 2 to 3 sources)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sources and notes – quotes, facts, citations, your reactions, thoughts, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ First draft (with peer or adult editing; have them write and sign their name at the end of the document)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final paper due (*all of the above items should also be included and submitted in a folder/portfolio of some sort*)

### Specifications:

The work should support your thesis statement. It should contain corroborative evidence and comparative evidence.

The paper will employ parenthetical citations (references). You should use APA formatting and should consult The OWL (The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University):

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)  
for specifics. APA Citation website: <http://www.citationmachine.net/apa/cite-a-website>

You are limited to four to six pages, 1 ½ line spacing, ¾ inch margins; 12 point font (Times or Times New Roman, or Georgia style font. (**First draft should be printed double-sided in order to conserve paper!!**))

Your works cited section must supply a minimum of six references, at least half of which should originally be from print sources. You may (and should) have more sources than final works cited.

**Science Argumentative Essay Rubric<sup>1</sup>** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_/24  
 (Total will be multiplied by 5 for a total of **120 points**)

| <b>Section</b>   | <b>4 = advanced</b>  | <b>3 = proficient</b>   | <b>2 = basic</b>  | <b>1 = needs work</b>   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Purpose for writing<br><i>Does your writing provide a compelling argument in support of your claims?</i>   | Your writing provides a compelling argument. Also, opposing claims are mentioned.  | Your writing provides an adequate argument in support of your claims.   | Your argument to support your claim is not developed well.  | Your writing needs a clear argument for your claims and supporting evidence is unclear or missing.                            |
| Introduction and thesis statement<br><i>Do you include background information on your topic, along with a clear thesis stating your argument and evidence?</i> | Introduction includes general background of the issue. Thesis is well developed, addresses the prompt and provides a specific argument with a preview of the evidence. | Introduction includes some background information. Thesis addresses the prompt but may be vague and/or doesn't reference specific evidence.       | Background information could provide more detail. Thesis is present, but is weak and not supported by argument or evidence. | Background information is missing or not adequate. Thesis is missing or does not properly address the question.               |
| Supporting evidence<br><i>Do you support your claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, while demonstrating a clear understanding of topic?</i>     | 3 pieces of thoughtful, well-worded, supporting evidence are addressed that are relevant to the topics. Your writing demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic.  | Only 2 pieces of supporting evidence are addressed or specific details are lacking. Your writing demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic. | Only 1 piece of supporting evidence is addressed and/or little reason or evidence is used to support your claims.           | Supporting evidence is unclear or not relevant to the topic. Your writing does not demonstrate an understanding of the topic. |
| Science content/background   | Accurate, extensive and thorough scientific information is included throughout the writing.  | Accurate scientific information is included throughout the writing.   | The topic is explained, but minor mistakes are made.  | The topic is not developed and contains major mistakes.   |
| Mechanics – APA format   | Paper is in the proper APA format – including a separate title, running head, page numbers and bibliography – including proper citation sources.                       | Proper APA format is used but missing one of the required items   | APA format is only partially used and/or several of the required are missing.   | APA format is missing or inadequate.  |
| Bibliography/citations   | Done in the correct format with no errors. Includes <b>at least</b> 6 major references (e.g. science journal articles, books, internet sites)                          | Done in the correct format with few errors. Includes at least 4 references.   | Includes only 3 references or not in the correct format.  | Only one reference is used, missing references or not in the correct format.  |

<sup>1</sup> <https://d3jc3ahdjad7x7.cloudfront.net/VmXGrFgogKghimy23jhW5Kry3iu9K64CyYwel9xcKY5IzQ05P.pdf>;  
<https://www.morganparkcps.org/ourpages/auto/2013/2/6/.../WritingRubric.doc>; edited by Ema Gluckmann 10/18