**Argumentative Essay on the Individual and Society**

**Dr. Gingrich, AP Language and Composition, Fall 2016**

**Rough Draft Due: September 9th**

**2nd Draft Due: September 16th**

**100 points summative**

There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the highest creed. Woodrow Wilson**, U.S. President, `1916-1921**

Any group or “collective,” large or small, is only a number of individuals. A group can have no rights other than the rights of its individual members. **Ayn Rand, author, *Fountainhead***

“Those who surrender freedom for security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one. **Ben Franklin, co-author of the Declaration of Independence**

**Background:**

Since the beginning of America as an independent country, a strong tension between individual rights and the common welfare has existed. The American Revolution began as a result of protests against the lack of individual rights and representation in the British Empire. Current problems involving individual expression and privacy have resulted from government surveillance and detainment as a result of the establishment of the homeland security administration and the Patriot Act. Individuals have often sought to voice their ideas and protest injustices frequently being met with efforts at suppression from the government. Protests against taxation and questions of whether public programs limit individual rights have been at the center of debates within American society. The tension between individual freedom and social conformity presents a central conflict within Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*.

**Central Questions to consider (you are not expected to address all of these in the essay but you should address some):**

* What is the function of society?
* What rights do individuals have?
* What is the role of the individual in American society?
* What elements are essential for the common good?
* What is more significant security or freedom?
* What is the relationship between individual rights and the common good? Is one more significant?

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**The Prompt:**

Consider the issues of the individual and society and write an essay in which you discuss the following prompt:

**Which is more essential to American society: the rights of the individual or the common good?**

****In supporting your position in the essay, you may use readings inside and outside of school, the media, and personal experience. **Make references to at least two texts (at least one of which must be *The Crucible*).** You may use the texts which I provide or find your own. Include a bibliography for the paper. Papers must include three different types of appeals from those listed below. Essays should be roughly 1,000 to 1,500 words, typed, double-spaced. You will turn in a hard copy with the revised draft and rough draft by 3:50 Friday, Sept, 18th and turn in an electronic version to turnitin.com by the same date.

* *Logos (***Definition, Cause and Effect, Comparison, and Syllogism**)
* *Ethos* ***(*Credibility/Authority of the Speaker**)
* *Pathos* ***(*Values**: right or wrong; **Emotion**: fear, joy, love, anger, etc.

**Logical Appeals:**

**Definition**

Definition demonstrates how to set the terms or parameters of an argument. Defining issues in terms that support your position frames the argument so that, through syllogistic reasoning, an audience can be lead logically to the conclusion you intend. To argue by definition, then, is to convince the audience that the definitions are reasonable, supportable and logical and, since your argument is based on them, your conclusions are as well. <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/argueparts/definition.cfm>

**Cause and Effect**

Cause and effect demonstrates how a given problem leads to effects which are detrimental or how the causes of a problem need to be addressed. In either case, the writer sets up a logical relationship based in causality as a key part of the argument, using other forms of proof to support their analysis of causes or effects.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/argueparts/causeeffect.cfm>

**Compare and Contrast**

Compare and contrast demonstrates how a given argument may be similar to or different from something that they already hold to be true. By logical extension, the similarity between the two gives your argument more persuasive power. Pointing to the differences between something held as fact and something you are arguing can convince the audience of its worthiness and allow you to focus only on the differences. <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/argueparts/comparecontrast.cfm>

## Syllogistic Reasoning

## Syllogistic reasoning demonstrates deductive logic and begins from the premise that a fact or opinion is inarguably true. Through a series of steps the writer demonstrates that the position being argued follows logically from that premise; an extension of what is already inarguably true. In another use of this appeal, the writer presents a series of facts from other sources and then draws a logical conclusion based on these facts, showing how each group of facts leads to a premise which the audience can accept as fact, and finally, how these premises, when put together, lead to a certain conclusion.

## <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/documents/argueparts/syllogistic.cfm>

**Readings on the Role of the Individual in Society**

Bill of Rights: [**https://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/**](https://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/)

“Enemies Within” Speech by Joseph McCarthy: [**http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456**](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456)

Document on Berkeley Free Speech Movement:

[**http://www.npr.org/2014/10/05/353849567/when-political-speech-was-banned-at-berkeley**](http://www.npr.org/2014/10/05/353849567/when-political-speech-was-banned-at-berkeley)

Patriot Act article from CNN

[**http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/30/politics/what-happens-if-the-patriot-act-provisions-expire/**](http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/30/politics/what-happens-if-the-patriot-act-provisions-expire/)

“Civil Liberties Today” NY Times Article Commemorating 9/11

[***http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/us/sept-11-reckoning/civil.html?\_r=0***](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/us/sept-11-reckoning/civil.html?_r=0)

**Snowden Editorial in New Yorker**

[**http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/edward-snowden-is-no-hero**](http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/edward-snowden-is-no-hero)

**Ferguson protest article from *USA Today***

[**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2014/10/06/judge-injunction-ferguson-police/16835217/**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2014/10/06/judge-injunction-ferguson-police/16835217/)

