

## TOPICS IN EDUCATION

### Collaborative Education Reform Proposal

You've listened to Sir Ken Robinson's speech titled "Changing Education Paradigms," you've watched *Waiting for Superman*, and you've read at least two articles on a timely education reform topic. Undoubtedly, you're a little tired from burning the midnight oil to put the finishing touches on your precis while keeping your streaks alive on Snapchat and running to Sheetz for a late night snack. However, one final step remains. In order to ensure that your ideas on education reform end up in the hands of people with power to make change and not a recycling bin, you will collaborate with one or two of your classmates to write a research-based proposal that can be implemented in the Perry Local Schools.

Your audience will be a member of the Perry Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the PHS Principal, and the President of the Perry Classroom Teachers' Association.



For this essay, you will utilize ethos, logos, and pathos. Each body paragraph should focus on one of these appeals. It's up to you to decide which order would be most effective for your particular essay.

**Ethos** or the ethical appeal is based on the character, credibility, or reliability of the writer. There are many ways to establish good character and credibility as an author: 1) Use only credible, reliable sources to build your argument and cite those sources properly; 2) Respect the reader by stating the opposing position accurately; 3) Establish common ground with your audience. Most of the time, this can be done by acknowledging values and beliefs shared by those on both sides of the argument; 4) Organize your argument in a logical, easy to follow manner; 5) Proofread the argument. Too many careless grammar mistakes cast doubt on your character as a writer.

**Logos** or the appeal to reason relies on logic or reason. Logos often depends on the use of inductive or deductive reasoning.

- **Inductive reasoning** takes a specific representative case or facts and then draws generalizations or conclusions from them. Inductive reasoning must be based on a sufficient amount of reliable evidence. In other words, the facts you draw on must fairly represent the larger situation or population.
- **Deductive reasoning** begins with a generalization and then applies it to a specific case. The generalization you start with must have been based on a sufficient amount of reliable evidence.

**Pathos**, or emotional appeal, appeals to an audience's needs, values, and emotional sensibilities. Argument emphasizes reason, but used properly there is often a place for emotion as well. Emotional appeals can use sources such as interviews and individual stories to paint a more legitimate and moving picture of reality or illuminate the truth.

- Note: Only use an emotional appeal if it truly supports the claim you are making, not as a way to distract from the real issues of debate. An argument should never use emotion to misrepresent the topic or frighten people.

Source: *The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 2018.*

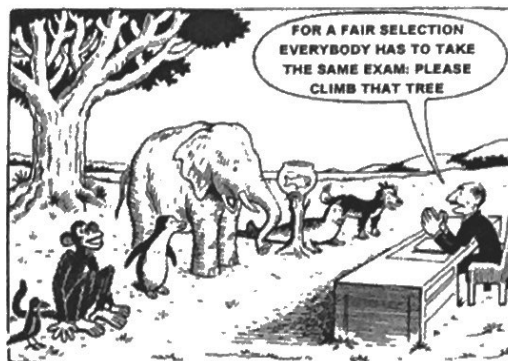
The learning targets for this assignment are:

PO#	Description	Score
3	Write arguments.	ADV P IP NM
6	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.	ADV P IP NM
14	Analyze issues through the critical use of credible sources.	ADV P IP NM

## Details

Collaborate with one or two of your classmates to write a research-based education reform proposal that can be implemented in the Perry Local Schools.

- The proposal is due on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The proposal represents a summative grade for two learning targets during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- The top 3 essays, as voted on by PSL students, will be reviewed by representatives from the Board of Education, Perry Local Schools leadership team, and PCTA. The students who wrote these essays will receive an exemption on the midterm exam.
- If your proposal is not received by the deadline, it will not be eligible for the exemption on the midterm exam.



**OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM**

## Schedule

- Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Introduce assignment. Choose classmates to collaborate with. Review available resources. Submit the following to [soederm@perry-lake.org](mailto:soederm@perry-lake.org) and [trentanellia@perry-lake.org](mailto:trentanellia@perry-lake.org) on a GoogleDoc before leaving:
    - Group member names:
    - Thesis:
    - Identify a minimum of 3 print/digital/primary resources using MLA format that you plan to use
    - Identify student who will be responsible for writing the following sections:
      - Introduction
      - Ethos
      - Logos
      - Pathos
      - Conclusion
- Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Conference with teacher. Construct individual sections of essay, and begin synthesizing into a cohesive proposal.
- Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Come up with a title that creatively captures the essence of your proposal. Don't let your title be ordinary.
  - Proofread the proposal
    - Is the proposal formal, while still injecting a personal/unique voice?
    - Does the proposal demonstrate standard English conventions of usage and mechanics?
    - Is there evidence of proofreading?
    - Is the introduction informative and compelling? Does it set the tone for the proposal?
    - Does each body paragraph focus on *one* of the following appeals: ethos, logos, or pathos?
    - Does the conclusion do more than restate the introduction? Does it make it difficult for the reader to disagree?
  - Share your final proposal with Mr. Soeder and Mrs. Trentanelli.

## Scoring

A proposal that is PROFICIENT will

- Establish a clear, thorough & original thesis that presents your idea on how to reform education in our community
- Develop a strong argument by utilizing ethos, pathos, and logos
- Integrate relevant information from multiple authoritative print/digital/primary resources
- Demonstrate clear and coherent formal writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.