Essay Four: Arguing a Position Course: ENGL 1010-S03 25% of grade OVERVIEW An argumentative essay explores a topic and asserts a position about the subject. Argumentative writing is not always about a win/lose situation. The goal for these essays is to present a thoughtful, logical, and plausible point of view on a given topic. A successful argumentative essay presents a position with a knowledgeable and respectful tone. These essays consider the contexts of the issues, incorporate outside research to develop and support points, and address opposing viewpoints. TOPIC: Privacy Rights and the Internet For this essay, you have a narrow topic that is both current and controversial. The issue of Internet privacy rights is a growing concern for many Americans. In your paper, you will assert your position on the topic. You are trying to persuade your reader to see the issue from your POSITION. Therefore, you need to choose a firm stance and develop an argument that supports your claim. You must develop logical, research-supported thesis points that reinforce your argument. Additionally, you should consider opposing viewpoints and provide a successful refutation to these oppositions. The research question you will answer in your essay: Should the U.S. government have access to people's digital information? Why or why not? RESEARCH To approach this type of essay successfully, the writer must be well-informed and cautious before leaping boldly to assumptions. Essentially, you need to do some research first! For this essay, you MUST use at least TWO of the following sources. You may elect to use all three: St. Martin's Guide (pages 213-216) - Daniel J. Solove - "Why Privacy Matters Even if You Have 'Nothing to Hide'" U.S. News - Daniel J. Gallington - "The Case for Internet Surveillance" The Library of Congress - "The USA Patriot Act: A Sketch" You can use the information to support your own ideas, and/or you can examine the refutations offered within the selected texts. Regardless, you MUST properly incorporate at least two of the sources. THESIS and AUDIENCE You will have an argumentative thesis. It will answer your research question and clearly state your POSITION on the issue. It will also MAP out your discussion points for your reader. Remember that your thesis (especially since this is a longer paper) can be more than one sentence. You can include your position statement in the first sentence, and then your discussion points in the second if it's clearer for the reader. Regardless, ensure your reader understands the purpose and can pull out your main idea. Your audience for this essay is your local state legislator. Therefore, you should clearly frame and contextualize the discussion for this particular audience (using your resources). Your overall tone should be formal, academic, and persuasive. FORMATTING and GUIDELINES As with all your major paper assignments, you should follow MLA 8th edition. Refer to the MLA section in your Rules for Writers and the powerpoint we went over in class. Also, per MSCC guidelines, "Each writing assignment for this class must be your original work. That means that you CANNOT recycle papers. In other words, you should not use a paper for this class that you have used (or are using) in other classes." Therefore, this paper should be original work you've created for the first time after having read this assignment sheet. You cannot use a paper you have previously written! Doing so constitutes plagiarism. Also note: any issues with citations can result in an automatic F for the paper. Other Reminders: Article titles are in quotes throughout your paper! You MUST have in-text citations! You MUST have a works cited page! The Writing Center Online is there to help! Please make an appointment! I am always happy to answer any specific questions you may have about your essay drafts as you complete the steps of the writing process for each essay; however, I will not look over any drafts for content-related issues 48 hours prior to submission. Please use your time wisely and do not wait until the last minute! Per syllabus, when submitting the final draft of the essay: The final draft of each essay must be typed via a Microsoft Word compatible program and saved as .docx, .docx, or .pdf. The essay must be submitted via D2L Assignment Submission