

Prompt: Arguing Architecture, Arguing Nature

1000-word Argumentative Essay

You must present your opinion about a space on our campus, and in so doing, respond to someone else's opinion about that space. You have two choices:

- **Nature Option:** Make observations about nature here on campus that respond to [Philosophical Article]. What does the author of [Philosophical Article] say nature is? What, in *your* opinion, is nature? And how does [Campus Park]--or some other "natural" space on campus--fit or not fit that definition? For this option, remember that when writing philosophical essays, it is important to define your terms (e.g. nature). It sometimes helps to define your term by opposing it to another common term or to a term or terms you make up (i.e. artificial, art, naturey, etc.).
- **Architecture Option:** Make observations about campus architecture that respond to [Architecture Article]. Pick a building or two you know well and answer the questions below in the order you see fit. In **YOUR** opinion, is the campus architecture beautiful, or brutal, or something else? (Bonus if you say it is not beautiful or beautiful, but something else, and if you can define what that something else is and give evidence of it.) Consider the features noted by the author of [Architecture Article], including passive solar "fins," raised terraces, raw concrete, and so on. Whatever building you focus on, it will help to view the building from different perspectives (i.e. from out front, below, inside on the 5th floor, the roof, etc.) and at different times of day (during passing period, at night, etc.).

Whether you respond to [Architecture Article] or [Philosophical Article], when you summarize the author's perspective, be sure to include at least two different comments from that author (via paraphrase and/or quotation). Also, as you present your perspective, use transitional words to make it clear whether you are adding to, contradicting, or agreeing with the source's opinion.

Your purpose for this writing assignment is primarily to convince. Your firsthand observations will support your opinion. Thus, you should use specific nouns, action verbs, and colorful adjectives as you describe the place. These will enable your readers to picture the place in their minds after reading your commentary. You'll definitely need to use discipline-specific vocabulary, whether from architects and architectural critics or philosophers and naturalists.

Finally, to support your opinion, you might also dig up other observations about our campus from the following sources: [Campus-specific list].

In preparation for peer review, please provide brief directions in your writing for how a peer can find this place in order to observe it.

"You Say, I Say" Peer Response (250 words)

Visit the place described by your peer, and respond to their observations. Find in their writing at least one comment that you can agree with, and one comment that you're able to contradict or add to. Be sure to respond to both by providing your own evidence (i.e. observations).