

## Inventing a New Life



# Essay Assignment

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### Directions:

Think about all of the inventions that you researched and wrote about. Which one did you think had the greatest impact on American society during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?

On the **planning page** of this document, list and organize the reasons why you chose this particular invention.

Using the important reasons (arguments) from Planning Page, write a persuasive essay that convinces others that your choice of inventions was correct. Remember to organize your essay based on the basic principles of persuasive writing found in the checklist below.

Refer to the assessment rubric that is included in this document to determine if you have met all of the requirements. Assess yourself using the rubric before turning in your finished essay.

### Persuasive Writing Elements:

**Remember that persuasive essays attempt to convince the reader that your position on a subject is correct. This is accomplished through precise, organized, and convincing arguments for your position.**

#### **Introductory paragraph**

This paragraph...

- ✓ lets the reader know what the essay is about and captures the readers' attention.
- ✓ provides background and perspective on the invention and the social circumstances that made it important.
- ✓ provides general statements, in order of importance, that mentions the arguments for the invention.

#### **Body paragraphs**

Each paragraph...

- ✓ explains one of the arguments for the invention.
  - has a topic sentence identifying the argument.
  - has enough details to thoroughly justify the argument.
  - is focused. All ideas and details relate or reinforce the main idea, there are no extraneous ideas and details.
  - has a concluding sentence that sums up the main point using different words than have been used before.
- ✓ occurs in the order introduced in the introductory paragraph.

#### **Concluding paragraph**

This paragraph...

- ✓ has a conclusion that restates the main idea.
- ✓ adds insights that lock in the main idea.

# Essay Assignment Planning Page

In the area below, list the reasons (arguments) why you think that the invention you chose should be considered the most important invention.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Next, choose the **three** of the most important reasons from above and order them in importance in the spaces provided below. Under each reason, write the details that make the reason important.

- **Most important reason:**

Details of why this reason is important:

- **Next important reason:**

Details of why this reason is important:

- **Last important reason:**

Details of why this reason is important:

# Essay Rubric

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Style, Tone, Organization, Level of Detail</b>	<p><b>The introductory paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a main idea or thesis statement that thoroughly states the purpose of the essay.</li> <li>• provides a complete background and perspective on the invention.</li> <li>• mentions all arguments in order of importance and that they appear in the body of the essay.</li> <li>• captures the readers' attention and makes them want to read more.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The introductory paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a main idea or thesis statement that adequately states the purpose of the essay.</li> <li>• provides some background and perspective on the invention.</li> <li>• mentions all arguments but, either not in order of importance or not as they appear in the body of the essay.</li> <li>• lacks some of the elements used to capture the readers attention.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The introductory paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• doesn't have a main idea or thesis statement, or if present, doesn't state the purpose of the essay.</li> <li>• provides little or no background and perspective on the invention.</li> <li>• doesn't mention all of the arguments.</li> <li>• makes little or no attempt to capture the reader's attention.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Each body paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a topic sentence that accurately identifies the argument.</li> <li>• provides enough details to thoroughly justify the argument presented in the paragraph.</li> <li>• is very focused. All details relate or reinforce the argument and there are no extraneous ideas and details.</li> <li>• has a concluding sentence that sums up the main point using different words than have been used before.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Each body paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has topic sentence that attempts to identify the argument.</li> <li>• provides some details that help to justify the argument.</li> <li>• is somewhat focused. Most details relate or reinforce the argument and there are only a few extraneous ideas and details.</li> <li>• has a concluding sentence, but it doesn't sum up the main point or use the same words that have been used before.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Each body paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lacks a topic sentence or, if present, doesn't identify the argument.</li> <li>• provides few or no details to justify the argument.</li> <li>• lacks focus. Few of the details that are present relate or reinforce the argument. Most are extraneous.</li> <li>• either doesn't have a concluding sentence, or if present, doesn't sum up the main point.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>The concluding paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a conclusion that completely restates the main idea.</li> <li>• adds insights that lock in the main idea.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The concluding paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a conclusion that attempts to restate the main idea.</li> <li>• adds some insights that vaguely allude to the main idea.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The concluding paragraph...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if present, inadequately restates the main idea.</li> <li>• adds few or no insights that allude to the main idea.</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<p><b>The content...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is completely accurate.</li> <li>• is more than adequate to advance the arguments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The content...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is mostly accurate.</li> <li>• is adequate to advance the arguments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The content...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes many inaccuracies.</li> <li>• is inadequate to advance the arguments.</li> </ul>
<b>Arguments</b>	<p><b>The essay's arguments...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are very convincing, they leave the reader believing that the invention was the most important invention of the period.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The essay's arguments...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are somewhat convincing, the reader may wonder whether the invention was the most important of the period.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The essay's arguments...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if present, are not convincing, they don't give the reader enough information to determine if the invention was the most important of the period.</li> </ul>