

English 201

Essay1: Silly Persuasion

Argue *for* or *against* a ridiculous idea or position by crafting a short essay of 1 ½ to 2 pages.

- Start with an interesting opening
- Use at least one “turnabout”
- Make at least one concession
- Use at least one metaphor and one simile

Feel free to invent your own ideas. **The following are merely sample positions or ideas:**

- Granting squids the right to vote
- Replacing the library with a vacuum cleaner museum
- Advocating the superiority of dogs to oranges (or vice versa)
- Free range penguin farming

Cite the statistics, testimony, opinions, or work from imaginary experts or institutions to either argue for or against your position. For example:

- Bureau of Nosy Statistics
- Institute of Pointless Research
- Director of Phrenology

The argument, information, and position can be as amusing or ridiculous as you like: have fun, but write as convincingly as you can, with proper grammar. Play it “straight,” as though such positions really might be held by intelligent, well-informed people.