

### Writing Assessment #3

1. Select a topic for either a persuasive research paper or a multiple viewpoint research paper (see explanation above in "Introduction to the ITT Research Paper").
  2. Next, write who your target audience would be for this argument. In other words, who will you be addressing in this paper? Your audience cannot be general. The person or group must have a name. For help on identifying an audience and its characteristics, see [And the Audience Roared](#).
  3. Then, write 2-3 main points for the topic that come to mind.
  4. Answer the following questions on your topic:
    - o Assess this topic. Will you find arguing about this topic difficult or easy? Why?
    - o How will you organize a paper on the topic?
    - o Take each main point and make a pro/con list for it. For example, if the topic is capital punishment and one main point is "punishment of the criminally insane," write a list that shows a positive argument for capital punishment of the criminally insane and a con list that argues against this kind of punishment for the criminally insane.
    - o Assess how the target audience would receive this argument. Would the audience be convinced, based on the main ideas? Why or why not?
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### SAMPLE RESPONSE

**1. Topic:** Abortion for Teens

**2. Target Audience:** Subscribers to the Savannah Morning News (daily newspaper, Savannah, GA)

**3. Parameters/Main Points:**

- Legal issue
- Health issue
- Special cases—incest, abuse
- Rights of girl v. rights of parents v. rights of unborn

**4. Answers to questions:**

☞ I will find arguing about this very easy because: I am a parent, the law about minors is clear. There is also quite a bit of online material that can be accessed easily.

☞ I will organize the paper by: (1) presenting statistics about teen pregnancy and teen abortions in the intro section; (2) repeating the lame arguments of those who oppose parental notification and tearing them down; (3) presenting my legal and health arguments with sources; (4) concluding with a plea to all parents to exercise their responsibilities to their children.

Main point: "Legal issue."

Pro—the law is very clear: If you are under 18, you are a minor. You are not yet "emancipated. As a minor, you must have your parents' permission to enter into any binding contract, and that includes a contract with a hospital, doctor, or any other

“release” form that must be signed. Quite plainly, any release form signed by a minor only is not valid.

Main point: “Health issue.”

Pro—Parents are responsible for the health of their children. Parents can be put in jail for failing to protect the health of their children. Because of this important responsibility and its legal ramifications, parents must be given the right to know if a child will be undergoing a medical procedure. Society cannot hold a parent responsible and yet not give the parent the means (required parental notification) to carry out that responsibility.

Main point: “Special cases.”

Con—There are times when parental notification can harm rather than help the teen. There must be an exception, clearly specified and easily activated, for youngsters who find themselves the victims of abuse and/or incest.

Main point: “Rights”

Pro and Con—Clearly there are competing rights in this controversy. However, the strongest claim (absent any extenuating circumstances) belongs to the parents.

☛ Audience: Although Savannah is in the Bible Belt, it is not a typical Southern town. With five universities, two major military installations and America’s sixth largest port, Savannah is cosmopolitan and middle-of-the-road when it comes to social issues. Thus, my letter to the editor must concede my opponent’s main points and allow for exceptions.