

Video Game Laws: Point-Counterpoint

For this assignment, you will be paired up with someone else in this class (not of your own choosing). You and your partner will debate the following question in the form of a short persuasive essay, much like an editorial or the arguments given in election packets. The question is this: Should there be a law similar to the one proposed by California in 2010 that prohibits the sale of violent, sexually explicit, or otherwise mature video games to minors? Under the proposed law, nobody under the age of eighteen can buy a mature video game that depicts "killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being," but parents can still buy and let their children play whatever they choose. Also, if a retailer is caught selling mature games to minors, the retailer is fined (approximately \$1000 for the first offense).

Between you and your partner, you will decide which person will argue for the law, and which person will argue against the law. Then you will write a persuasive opening argument of approximately 600-750 words. Next, you will read your partner's opening argument, and construct a 300-500 word rebuttal in which you disprove their points.

Keep in mind, since this is a persuasive paper combined with a simplified research paper, you are required to:

- A. Provide the context for the debate in your introduction, and have a thesis statement that clearly states the philosophy behind your support or lack of support for the law.
- B. Use rhetorical devices (repetition, understatement, parallel structure, rhetorical questions, etc.).
- C. Use rhetorical appeals (appeals to logic, appeals to authority, appeals to emotion, appeals to ethics, etc.)
- D. Address and refute any counter-arguments your opponents might have. Acknowledge why people might disagree with you; then prove them wrong.
- E. Use the information from the research articles to support your ideas.
- F. Include appropriate parenthetical citations and a complete works cited page.
- G. Write between 900 and 1250 words (per person). Follow MLA Format.