

Growth Policy Paper

It is time for *YOU* to *USE* the skills you've learned in school to help your community. As part of the City of Whitefish's growth policy update, you and your classmates are being asked to envision Whitefish in 2045. Each of you must, identify, research, and recommend solutions to a local issue related to the growth of our city over the next 20 years. Research papers that pass academic muster will be submitted to city planning staff, and a select few of the best ideas will be called before the city council for a formal presentation. Your research will also serve as the basis of a legislative bill you will work to pass through a classroom simulation of our federal congress. For all of us to succeed in this mission, our class will be spending significant time in the library to give us the space, time, resources, and assistance from our wonderful librarians, whom you will thank extensively.

Features of a Policy Paper

Policy papers are different from the standard research papers in several respects:

- They are usually addressed at a **non-academic audience**, such as the public.
- They often focus on **prescriptive questions**. They may begin by diagnosing a particular issue, and typically argue for a solution that will address that issue.
- Often, policy papers are focused on being **argumentative**. The intention is to convince the target audience that your position is the correct one.
- **Evidence** in support of a position is crucial. This is also important for research papers, but it tends to be absolutely *critical* in policy papers.
- Policy papers are **written efficiently**. The audience often does not have much time and does not want to read a book on the subject.

Fundamental Requirements

Your final paper must meet the following criteria:

- Checkpoints on class calendar (-5% off final grade for each missed checkpoint)
- 3-6 pages in length
- Evidenced by at least three academic or investigative sources
- The introduction ends with a thesis statement that establishes a line of reasoning
- At least one counterclaim is refuted, rebutted, or conceded
- MLA Formatting

Rubric on the backside of this page

Argumentative Writing Rubric (juniors & seniors)

	Advanced (100%) 4	Proficient (85%) 3	Getting There (70%) 2	Keep Practicing (60%) 1
<i>Ideas and Analysis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> nuanced thesis <input type="checkbox"/> establishes reasoning and strategy <input type="checkbox"/> insightful context <input type="checkbox"/> refines complexity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> precise thesis <input type="checkbox"/> establishes line of reasoning <input type="checkbox"/> relevant context <input type="checkbox"/> addresses complexity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> clear thesis <input type="checkbox"/> line of reasoning is vague <input type="checkbox"/> general context <input type="checkbox"/> recognizes complexity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> semi-clear thesis <input type="checkbox"/> does not establish reasoning <input type="checkbox"/> limited context <input type="checkbox"/> simplistic
<i>Development and Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> evidence is cohesive & solidifies argument <input type="checkbox"/> evidence references more than three sources <input type="checkbox"/> reasoning is clear, logical, & integrates evidence <input type="checkbox"/> counterclaim(s) strategically refuted, rebutted, or conceded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> evidence is detailed & strengthens argument <input type="checkbox"/> evidence references three sources clearly <input type="checkbox"/> reasoning is clear & logical <input type="checkbox"/> counterclaim is refuted, rebutted, or conceded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> evidence supports argument <input type="checkbox"/> evidence references less than three sources and/or references are unclear <input type="checkbox"/> reasoning is sometimes unclear and/or illogical <input type="checkbox"/> counterclaim is mentioned but not refuted, rebutted, or conceded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> evidence sometimes supports Argument <input type="checkbox"/> evidence doesn't reference any specific sources <input type="checkbox"/> reasoning is unclear etc. <input type="checkbox"/> counterclaim is absent
<i>Organization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> productive strategy with paragraph sequence <input type="checkbox"/> connections to thesis are powerful <input type="checkbox"/> topic sentences are clear & concise <input type="checkbox"/> transitions sentences strengthen relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> clear strategy with paragraph sequence <input type="checkbox"/> clear connections to thesis <input type="checkbox"/> topic sentences are clear <input type="checkbox"/> clear transition sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> basic paragraph organization <input type="checkbox"/> weak connections to thesis <input type="checkbox"/> some topic sentences are unclear <input type="checkbox"/> transition sentences are unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> disorganized paragraph sequence <input type="checkbox"/> some connection to thesis are absent <input type="checkbox"/> some topic sentences are missing <input type="checkbox"/> some transitions are absent
<i>Language Use</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> word choice is skillful and precise <input type="checkbox"/> sentence structures make appropriate emphasis <input type="checkbox"/> strategic style and flow <input type="checkbox"/> no grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> word choice is powerful <input type="checkbox"/> variety of sentence structure <input type="checkbox"/> appropriate formal style <input type="checkbox"/> few grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> word choice appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> some variety of sentence structures <input type="checkbox"/> basic formal style <input type="checkbox"/> some grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> word choice is general <input type="checkbox"/> sentence structures are repetitive <input type="checkbox"/> inconsistent formal style <input type="checkbox"/> significant grammatical errors