



Project Instructions



Competency

In this project, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following competency:

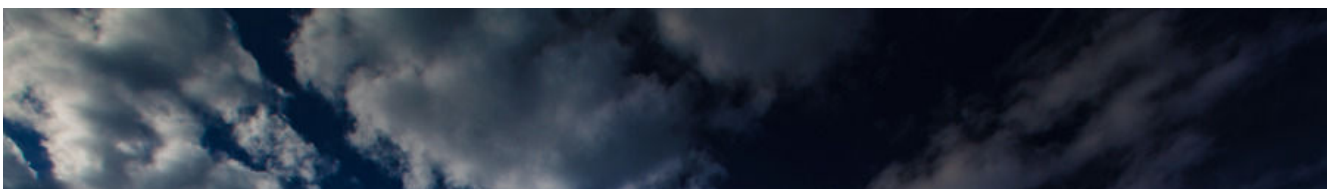
- Evaluate arguments to determine logical soundness of position

Scenario



You work for OneEarth, an environmental consulting company that specializes in building-condition assessments, contaminated-site remediation, and energy audits. Founded by an environmentally concerned citizen in 2010, OneEarth has emerged as the highest-quality and most comprehensive environmental services company in the northern region of the United States.

Recently, ardent local representative Sy Bill Wright contacted OneEarth for assistance evaluating the validity of arguments related to fracking. He agreed to meet with any interest or advocacy groups that wanted to discuss their positions to ensure that he was well-informed about the controversial topic. Now, he needs OneEarth's help examining the arguments and the evidence they provided to ensure that he makes a sound decision. He believes that OneEarth, a highly-respected environmental firm with strong connections to the local community, could provide critical insights to his evaluation of the advocacy groups' evidence. Aware of your previous work advising on fossil fuel management, your manager Claire DeAir has asked you to serve as a liaison to representative Wright.





Directions

Representative Wright has provided you with all of the information he received from the advocacy or interest groups that he entertained the previous week. This information is available in his email in the Supporting Materials section. In your position paper (750–1,250 words), you will evaluate the arguments of each group, specifically examining their conclusions, premises, assumptions, and evidence. Using your analysis, representative Wright will be able to determine how to take the soundest position on the controversial topic. In your paper, include the following components:

- A discussion of the common conceptions and misconceptions about the topic
 - What is the topic? What are the **common conceptions and misconceptions** about this topic?
 - What is the context of the topic?
 - Why is the topic a significant issue?
 - What was your own opinion as a consultant prior to conducting research?
- An identification and description of the components of the argument
 - What is the **main point or conclusion** about the topic?
 - What are the **main arguments and subarguments** about the topic?
 - What are the **premises** (reasons for thinking the conclusion is true)? Are there any **missing premises**?
 - What are the **assumptions and biases**?
- A recognition and evaluation of the deductive and inductive arguments
 - If the argument is **deductive** (providing premises that guarantee their conclusions):
 - Is the argument **valid**? (Are the premises and the conclusions true?)
 - What types of formal and/or informal **logical fallacies** are used?
 - Is the argument **sound**?
 - If the argument is **inductive** (aiming to provide premises that make the conclusion more probable):
 - Is the argument **strong** (more probable conclusion in light of premises) or **weak** (less probable

conclusion in light of the premises)?

- What type of argument is used (**analogical** or **causal**)?
- Is the argument **defeasible**? (Can more information defeat the verdict that the conclusion is well-supported by the premises?)
 - What types of **statistical fallacies** are used?

Refer to the Supporting Materials section to explore how to write effectively.

What to Submit

Every project has a deliverable or deliverables, which are the files that must be submitted before your project can be assessed. For this project, you must submit the following:

Position Paper (750–1,250 words)

Your manager, Claire DeAir, has asked you to serve as a liaison to representative Wright. You will develop a position paper that evaluates advocacy groups' arguments about the topic. Using your analysis, representative Wright will be able to determine how to take the soundest position on the controversial topic.

Supporting Materials

The following resource(s) may help support your work on the project:

[Citation Help](#)

Need help citing your sources? Use the CfA Citation Guide and Citation Maker.


[Representative Sy Bill Wright's Email](#)


Representative Sy Bill Wright has emailed you all of the resources that the advocacy groups provided to him. You will review and evaluate each of the arguments.

Reading: [Writing Guide](#)

Review the tutorials and resources in the Writing Guide document if you need help with the writing aspects of this project.




 Reflect in ePortfolio

 Download

 Print



 Open with docReader

Activity Details

✓ You have viewed this topic



Read all about your project here. This includes the project scenario, directions for completing the project, a list of what you will need to submit, and supporting materials that may help you complete the project.

Last Visited Mar 11, 2021 4:21 PM