Background:
Core 4 is a researched and documented argument essay…and there are many options open to you in deciding just exactly what kind of argument you want to write: a proposal, a compromise, a conventional claims-and-evidence essay, a humorous piece, a definitional argument, and many more that we’ll talk about in class.

Let's look at some of the specifics of this essay:

Your Task
To write an argument essay and establish credibility through valid appeals, claims, reasoning, and appropriate support. Depending upon the kind of argument you're writing, you should also deal with opposing views effectively through refutation (rebuttal), compromise, or concession. If appropriate, your essay should focus on a viable solution to the issue, that you will support and defend.

Your essay will
• Build a solid, credible argument, by presenting specific claims, each supported with evidence and full explanation.
• Target a specific audience affected by your topic—who out there cares about your topic? You want to write to those people. For example, if you’re arguing that the designated hitter rule in baseball should be discarded, then your audience needs to be more specific than the students in this class or the professor. Who would be interested in reading your essay? Probably people who enjoy watching or playing baseball, and have an interest in the rules, traditions, and progress of the sport. These people are your audience. They’ll want to read your essay to see how well you make your case.
• Synthesize and integrate the results of your research. Remember, you are creating meaning as a critically thinking person. This is your essay, your ideas.
• Use quotations sparingly—instead, provide powerful insight yourself, with your own words.
• Display your documentation skills.
• Think “powerfully thought, powerfully written.” These essays are you on paper—you in art form. They’ll live on when you’re gone, like your children. Invest in them the creative energy, inspiration, uniqueness, and essential meaning that fuels life.
• I encourage you to deal with this essay creatively. Stake out some new turf, or tackle a personally relevant issue. I’m always open to new approaches and topics, so talk to me if you have ideas.

You will draw upon all of the writing tools you have learned thus far in this course to write this essay. This (may) include developing a coherent plan (a map for the essay), a
specific thesis statement, concrete details, credible sources for support and evidence…as well as an awareness of yourself as a sophisticated and mature “arguer,” and an appropriate, knowledgeable, and academic tone.

Suggested Process…

- Decide upon an appropriate focus/topic
- Determine your intended audience (this will help you focus on what you intend to accomplish with this essay)
- Research appropriate supporting materials
- Plan your argument strategy (What kind of argument are you writing? What appeals will you use? What individual claims will support your overall thesis? How will you order these claims? Do you have support for each claim? How can you explain your reasons in a convincing, credible, and fair way?)
- Anticipate weaknesses (How will you deal with opposing views?)
- Properly cite and document all sources

Length: 1500-2000 words

Number of Sources: Depends on the type of argument. Anywhere from 3-12.

DUE DATE: Friday, Apr. 19, 2002