

Sacred Spaces, Bryn Mawr and Beyond
Bryn Mawr College
Fall 2026

Assignment 1. Writing an argument driven paper based on your opinion

The assignment is based on the case study we read in class, “Driven by Faith.” Please write a five-page (double-spaced) paper in which you:

- Identify the key stakeholders
- Summarize their positions
- Make an argument about how you think the issue at the core of the case is best resolved and why

You have all the information you need to complete this assignment in the case materials parts A and B. Please do not do any additional research or draw on any sources outside of these materials to complete the paper.

To complete this assignment, we will work through the following together over the next few class meetings:

1. Develop a clear thesis statement. Your thesis statement is your argument – the one sentence position that is the core of your paper.
2. Identify the main reasons this is your argument and the evidence you will use to support it.
3. Outline and then draft your paper thinking about me and students in other ESems as your audience.
4. Revise your first (and second and third) draft(s) with a peer and/or at the Writing Center.
5. Proofread your paper before you submit it.

You can organize your paper however you would like. If you are stuck, try this:

Introduction (one-two paragraphs): Briefly explain what this paper is about. The last sentence of this paragraph should be your thesis statement

Background (no more than one page): Briefly explain the background your reader needs to know about this situation to contextualize your argument.

Body (three pages): Explain the three reasons this is your argument and present the evidence to support it. This is probably where you will describe the key stakeholders and their arguments though that could instead go in the background section.

Conclusion (one-two paragraphs): Briefly restate your argument and conclusion here.

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The following rubric will be used when grading your paper:

Your introduction frames the paper (2 points)

Your thesis statement is clear and strong (3 points)

Your background section clearly explains the situation (2 points)

You develop your argument with three reasons and evidence (3 points each = 9 points)

Conclusion (2 points)

Citations are correct (1 point)

Grammar (1 point)

Total: 20 points = 100%

Consider visiting the Writing Center with your paper before turning it in. To make an appointment or get more information see: <https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/writing-center>

This paper is due through Moodle at the beginning of class on September 24.

Questions? Just ask