

Chaffey College  
English 1B: Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking

Paper One: Policy Claim Outline

- Paper #1 (15% of the grade) calls for students to create a **sentence outline** (not a paper—just a detailed outline) and to support with research a working thesis based on one of the topics identified below. This outline will eventually turn into the final paper in the class (the Portfolio Claim), a carefully revised and edited write-up of the groundwork laid in this outline.
- Please choose and narrow one of the following topics for the project:

Affirmative Action/EOE/ERA	Immigrant rights
Genetically-modified foods	Gun ownership
Homelessness	LGBT Youth
Illegal drugs excluding alcohol	Childhood vaccination

- Begin research on the topics that interest you immediately! Within a couple of days, start your research through a college or university library.
- In the final outline, working thesis statements must be “should/should not” policy claims and must be supported by at least two claims of value and one claim of fact.

A policy claim makes an assertion about a course of action the reader should take; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about an actionable topic (policy).

A value claim makes a qualifiable assertion; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about a moral, ethical aesthetic, or philosophical topic (value).

A fact claim makes a quantifiable assertion; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about a measurable topic (fact).

- The “finished” working thesis and sentence outline should be approximately four pages in length, must evidence Library research, and must be presented in proper outline format.
- With the working thesis and sentence outline, students must submit a brief description that identifies both who the audience is and what beliefs, values, and opinions they hold.
- Papers will be evaluated one-third on the quality and development of the working thesis and sentence outline; one-third on deployment of relevant, sufficient, and reliable support; and one-third on the pedigree and format of the outline.
- **Important guidelines on creating sentence outlines as well as other content crucial to the development of this paper are available on Moodle.**