

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 sentence 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:

Should Affirmative Action laws be changed?	Should marijuana be legal for medicinal and/or recreational use?
Should GMO foods be labeled?	What should be done to counter-act effects of climate change?
How should student evaluations of teachers be used?	Should college athletes be paid?
How can schools better support LGBTQ youth?	Should childhood vaccination be mandatory?

- 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, 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).

- *e.g.* The National Baseball Hall of Fame should admit Pete Rose.

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

- *e.g.* Politicians who promote policy based on inaccurate facts do the public a great disservice.

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

- *e.g.* Although it is incomplete because marijuana is a Schedule One drug, all the major studies agree that the drug has positive medical benefit.

- The sentence outline should be approximately four pages in length, must evidence Library research, and must be presented in proper outline format.
- With the thesis and sentence outline, students should 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 Canvas.