

*From Informing to Arguing:  
Same Topic, New Purpose*

# What We're Doing Today

1

## Prewriting 1 Review: APA Citation Check Workshop

~40 min

Mark corrections on your printed Prewriting 1 draft using the sample essay as a guide. We'll go through it together.

2

## Argument Overview: The Big Shift

~15 min

The big shift from informing to arguing and how your thesis needs to change to make that happen.

3

## Prewriting 2: Steps & Requirements

~20 min

Walk through the 4 parts you'll complete before next class. Bring it with you—typed (printed) or handwritten.

# Different Format

*Same Purpose*

## What Is APA Format?

**APA** = American Psychological Association

**Used by:** Social sciences, psychology, education, business, nursing

**Why it matters:** Most fields beyond English and some humanities use APA—learning it now prepares you for transfer courses.

**Format provides a predicable layout and information sharing strategies** so that we can keep the thinking at the forefront but provide all the other necessary information for our readers: information about us and our sources.

# APA vs. MLA: What Changed on Your Draft

*Review Sample and APA format. In-class Mark up papers. 35-40 minutes.*

Element	MLA (Essay 2)	APA (Essay 3)
Title Page	No separate title page (header info top-left)	Separate title page — title, name, course, date. No running head for student papers; page number in upper right only.
In-Text Citation	(Author Page#) (Martinez 12)	(Author, Year, p. #) (Martinez, 2026, p. 12)
Date in Citation	Not in in-text citation	Year always in in-text citation
Source List	Works Cited	References
Date in Source List	At the end of the entry	Right after the author name
Source Order	Alphabetical	Alphabetical

# The Big Shift

*Prewriting 2: From Informing to Arguing*

Read  
sample  
essay

## Essay 2: Informative Synthesis

*"Here's what experts say about this topic."*

### Your job was:

- Gather multiple sources
- Summarize and synthesize perspectives
- Present the picture neutrally
- Let the research speak for itself

## Essay 3: Argument

*"Based on what I've learned, here's what I think we should do—and why."*

### Your job now:

- Take a clear position
- Support it with claims + evidence
- Address the counterargument
- Convince your reader

# From Informative Thesis → Argumentative Thesis

*The same topic. A completely different purpose.*

## **INFORMATIVE (Jessica—Essay 2):**

*Phones in schools are clearly causing problems for learning, but the solution might not be as simple as just banning them.*

## **ARGUMENTATIVE (Jessica—Essay 3):**

*Schools should implement structured phone policies that teach responsible use rather than total bans that treat students like they cannot be trusted and fail to prepare them for a world where digital devices are everywhere.*

## **INFORMATIVE (Sofia—Essay 2):**

*By looking at reports from government agencies, experts, and news outlets, we can get a better understanding of how data brokers work...*

## **ARGUMENTATIVE (Sofia—Essay 3):**

*The data broker industry needs serious federal regulation because these companies collect our personal information without really asking us, use that information in ways that can hurt our economic opportunities, and operate with way too much secrecy.*

# How to Build Your Argument Thesis

## The Formula:

*[Position on your topic] + BECAUSE + [Reason 1], [Reason 2], and [Reason 3]*



### Take a side

Replace neutral language with a clear position.  
"might not be simple" → "schools should..."



### Add a "because" clause

Force yourself to include 2–3 reasons that will become your body paragraphs.



### Apply the "So what?" test

Ask: why should anyone care? If you can't answer it, your thesis isn't arguable yet.



### Acknowledge complexity

A strong thesis admits there's another side — that's what makes it worth arguing.

# Step 1: Your Argument Thesis

## 1: Copy your informative thesis from Essay 2.

**BEFORE (Sofia — Informative):** *By looking at reports from government agencies, experts, and news outlets, we can get a better understanding of how data brokers work, why their actions matter, and what people are doing to try to stop the misuse of personal information.*

## 2: Ask “How can I make it say what should happen and why?” (No questions!)

**AFTER (Sofia — Argumentative):** *The data broker industry needs serious federal regulation because these companies collect our personal information without really asking us, use that information in ways that can hurt our economic opportunities, and operate with way too much secrecy for a democratic society.*

## 3: Check to make sure it does its job. Use this checklist.

### Thesis Strength Check—Ask yourself:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it take a clear, debatable position? | <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have reasons (because...)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it acknowledge complexity?           | <input type="checkbox"/> Could someone disagree with it?    |

## Step 2: Your Claims

List 3–4 claims that support your thesis. For each one, note which part of your informative essay you can pull from. You already have the evidence — now you're giving it a job.

### Example (Sofia Hernandez):

**Claim 1: Data brokers collect massive amounts of personal data without meaningful consent.**

← *from paragraph 2 of Essay 2 (FTC report + Zuboff)*

**Claim 2: This data is used to discriminate against people in pricing and lending decisions.**

← *from paragraph 3 of Essay 2 (Angwin / NPR interview)*

**Claim 3: The industry operates with almost no transparency or federal accountability.**

← *from paragraph 4 of Essay 2 (secrecy + state law gaps)*

*Tip: Your claims are the topic sentences of your body paragraphs.  
Each one should connect directly to your thesis.*

# Step 3: Rough Draft of Your Introduction

Structure: Hook → Context → Thesis.

One paragraph. It doesn't have to be perfect—just get the shape down.

## Hook:

Open with something that pulls the reader in. A scenario, a surprising fact, a question.

## Context:

A few sentences giving background—what's the controversy? Why does it matter right now?

## Thesis:

End with your argumentative thesis. This is the last sentence of your intro.

### Sofia's Intro — notice the structure:

**[Hook]** Every time you unlock your phone or click a website, you're handing over data to companies you've never heard of. **[Context]** These companies buy and sell your personal information, and most people have no idea how big this industry has gotten. . . **[Thesis]** The data broker industry needs serious federal regulation because...

# Step 4: Conclusion Draft + Counterargument Note

## Conclusion—4 moves:

1. Restate your thesis in fresh language (don't copy-paste)
  2. Briefly summarize your main claims
  3. Answer the 'so what?' — why does this matter beyond your essay?
  4. End with a compelling closing thought
- 

## Counterargument Note—just name it for now:

In Prewriting 2, you only need to identify the strongest opposing argument someone might raise. You don't have to respond to it yet — that's what we'll develop in Prewriting 3.

**Phone policies:** Some might argue that any phone use disrupts learning, so total bans are the only solution.

**Data brokers:** Others argue that data collection is a fair trade for free online services that consumers willingly use.

**Parasocial relationships:** One could argue that it's not schools' job to regulate students' emotional relationships with media figures.

# Sample Prewriting 2 — Sofia Hernandez (Data Brokers)

*This is what a completed Prewriting 2 might look like.*

## Part 1 — Thesis (1 sentence/no questions)

The data broker industry needs serious federal regulation because these companies collect our personal information without really asking us, use that information in ways that can hurt our economic opportunities, and operate with way too much secrecy for a democratic society.

## Part 3 — Intro DRAFT (1 draft paragraph)

Every time we unlock our phones, click a website, or scan a loyalty card, we hand over little pieces of information to companies you've probably never heard of. These companies—called data brokers—collect all of it, build a detailed profile about us, and sell it to whoever will pay. Most people have no idea how powerful this industry has become. The data broker industry needs serious federal regulation because these companies collect our personal information without really asking us, use it in ways that can hurt our economic opportunities, and operate with way too much secrecy for a democratic society.

## Part 2 — Claims (A list of 3-4 main argument points)

1. Data brokers collect massive amounts of personal data without meaningful consent.
2. This data is used to discriminate against people in pricing and lending decisions.
3. The industry operates with almost no transparency or accountability.
4. Existing state laws are too scattered to address a national problem.

## Part 4 — Conclusion DRAFT + Counterargument Note (1 draft paragraph, and CA note)

Data brokers have built a billion-dollar industry on information that was never really theirs to sell. Federal regulation is the only way to guarantee that people have real control over their own data. Without it, the industry will keep operating in the shadows: collecting, profiling, and selling without accountability. The question is not whether data collection happens, but who gets to decide when it does. That decision should belong to us.

[CA Note] Some argue data collection is a fair trade for free services. I need to explain why "free" doesn't mean we gave up our rights.

# Prewriting 2

*Four things to bring to next class*

Review this slideshow at  
[kelli.ninja/argument.html](https://kelli.ninja/argument.html)

1

## Your Argument Thesis

**1 Sentence:** No questions! Transform your informative thesis. Take a position. Add a "because" clause.

2

## Your Claims

**A list:** 3–4 claims that support your thesis, each connected to evidence from Essay 2.

3

## Rough Draft: Introduction

**1 Paragraph:** Hook → context → thesis. One paragraph. It doesn't have to be perfect.

4

## Rough Draft: Conclusion + Counterargument Note

**1 Paragraph:** Restate thesis differently → summarize claims → "so what" + name the strongest opposing view.  
Add any notes about counter arguments (CA) you need to develop for your draft.