

Matrix | Unit 1

Essay Topic Matrix

Topics	Expository Essay Considerations	Persuasive Essay Considerations
Three Strikes Laws	Explain what three strikes laws are, their background, and their use in the United States.	Some have questioned the fairness and deterrent effect of three strikes laws. Persuade the reader that three strikes laws are, or are not, a fair and effective method for deterring crime.
Death Penalty	Explain the background and use of the death penalty in the United States.	A number of states currently do not permit the death penalty as a punishment. Explain the pros and cons of the death penalty, and then persuade your reader that the death penalty is either an effective or ineffective punishment.
Homeland Security	Explain the background and facts about creation and operation of the Department of Homeland Security in the United States since 9/11.	The Transportation Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security has been sued claiming that new airport security measures violate his personal rights. Persuade your audience that homeland security measures do, or do not, violate citizens' rights.
Racial Profiling	Explain what racial profiling means in a law enforcement setting.	The media often portrays profiling, whether by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and/or socioeconomic status, as a bad law enforcement policy. Write about the pros and cons of racial profiling, and then persuade your reader that profiling should either be used, or not be used, in law enforcement.

***Disaster
Preparedness and
Recovery***

Explain what the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is and its role in responding to an emergency crisis such as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2011, impatience grew among the media and public when the emergency management response was slow to resolve the crisis. Some have argued that this occurred as a result of the private-public partnership between the U.S. government and British Petroleum (BP). What are the issues that arise in responding to emergencies when a private-public partnership exists? Persuade your reader that new government regulations are either needed or not needed to effectively respond to crises such as the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.