

Law 12

Chapter 2 Essay

Select one of the topics below. Randomly (i.e. flip a coin) prepare an argument either in favour of the statement or a counterargument against the statement. Support your position with examples.

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, and in a standard font and font size (i.e. Times New Roman size 12). It should be 1 -2 pages long.

- a. Canadian society is going to break down and the court system will become ineffective because Canadians have too many civil and human rights, and far too many minority groups are protected under the law.
- b. Teenagers are victims of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination. Their rights should be expanded to include cheaper car insurance rates and the right to vote and buy alcohol and cigarettes at age 16. (At a recent meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, 45% of doctors thought the legal age for marijuana should be 21.)
- c. The retirement age should be raised to 70 because people are living longer. It is too expensive to pay pensions and benefits to people when they reach the age of 65.
- d. In *Singh v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)* (1985), the Supreme Court of Canada gave illegal immigrants in Canada the same Charter rights and protections as Canadians. This is wrong. Once found, illegal immigrants should be deported immediately.
- e. Because they have so much power, Supreme Court of Canada judges should be elected.

OR

- f. In November 2000, Michael Ignatieff gave the CBC's Massey Lecture. "The rights revolution," he said, "which includes children's rights, gay rights, aboriginal rights, language rights, and so on – has changed the way we think of ourselves as citizens, men and women, parents. Enhancing [increasing] equality while safeguarding [protecting] differences is what the rights revolution in Canada is all about. We are closer to Europe because we are less suspicious of government power [than the U.S.].... We believe citizens have a right to free health care, unemployment insurance, and government pensions.... And we are one of the few countries who have thought of how to dissolve the whole experiment [Canadian Confederation] without risking the horror of a civil war."

Develop an argument in favor of the following statement: "Enhancing equality while safeguarding differences is what the rights revolution in Canada is all about." Use examples from the quotation, the text, and from extended research to support this view. Ultimately, how are individual differences safeguarded?

Directions: Your assignment will be graded based on this rubric. Consequently, use this rubric as a guide when working on your assignment and check it again before you submit it.

Traits	4	3	2	1
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the goal or thesis, and provides an overview of the issue. Information is presented in a logical order and maintains the interest of the audience. The conclusion strongly states a personal opinion.	The introduction includes the goal or thesis and provides an overview of the issue. Information is presented in a logical order but does not always maintain the interest of the audience. A conclusion states a personal opinion.	The introduction includes the main goal or thesis. Most information is presented in a logical order. A conclusion is included, but it does not clearly state a personal opinion.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Goal or Thesis	There is one goal or thesis that strongly and clearly states a personal opinion and identifies the issue.	There is one goal or thesis that states a personal opinion and identifies the issue.	A personal opinion is not clearly stated. There is little reference to the issue.	The personal opinion is not easily understood. There is little or no reference to the issue.
Reasons and Support	Three or more excellent reasons are stated with good support. It is evident that a lot of thought and research was put into this assignment.	Three or more reasons are stated, but the arguments are somewhat weak in places.	Two reasons are made but with weak arguments.	Arguments are weak or missing. Less than two reasons are made.
Word Choice	Word choice is creative and enhances the argument.	Word choice enhances the argument.	There is evidence of attention to word choice.	Word choice is limited.
Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	There are no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	There are few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	There are several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	There are numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.