

# WTC Design Argument Essay

**Minimum Words: 1400**

**Due Dates:** Full-length draft = January 12; Final Draft January 14

## Purpose of Assignment:

To persuade your readers that the design you have chosen will best replace the destroyed World Trade Center.

## Method:

- First, carefully read and study pages 267-290 of *SMG*. Then review the basic elements of each design team's proposal (the sections entitled "elements" and "introduction").
- From this point, you should find it possible to choose the two or three sites that most intrigue you. For those sites, **VIEW THE ENTIRE SLIDE SHOW** (if you do not do this for **AT LEAST** the site you write about, you cannot possibly write a coherent essay). **I strongly recommend viewing the slide shows for all seven architectural design firms before you begin drafting!**  
[http://www.renewnyc.com/plan\\_des\\_dev/wtc\\_site/new\\_design\\_plans/](http://www.renewnyc.com/plan_des_dev/wtc_site/new_design_plans/)
- When you have carefully studied the site you are interested in, craft an argument based on your analysis of this design and on the principles and values you will identify and explain in your argument. Remember to anticipate opposing positions and objections as you draft.

**Essay Evaluation criteria (applied to final draft submission)** (and the *SMG* pages you can consult for some guidance)

- 1) **Focused presentation:** 262, 277, 280
- 2) **Clear position (thesis):** 262, 277, 280
- 3) **Plausible reasons and convincing support:** 263, 277, 280
- 4) **Anticipating Opposing Position and Objections:** 263, 277, 281
- 5) **Organization:** 277, 281
- 6) **Word choice:** H 48-H 57
- 7) **Sentence style (variety and correctness):** H 6-10, H 43-48, H 116-130
- 8) **Grammar and mechanics:** H 12-43, H 58-114
- 9) **Documentation of Sources:** *SMG* 22

## Documenting Sources:

If you use only the provided web site, you may document any references to the web site informally in the text. Once you have identified the architectural group's proposal in your introduction, use italics when you refer to the architectural firm in your essay (for the purpose of this essay only—**not** as a general rule in writing). You may then simply refer to slide or element numbers either in the sentence itself or parenthetically at the end. Here is an example of a parenthetical reference:

*The Foster and Partners design for the memorial includes a peaceful park and graceful gateway to the memorial (slide 5). The tranquility and small scale of this setting humanizes the intimidating size of the intertwined towers hovering over the memorial.*

Attach printouts of any slides or images you refer to in your text to the back of your essay. If you decide to quote, paraphrase, or summarize the "introduction" for your preferred design, cite it parenthetically and provide a copy of the introduction attached to the back of the paper with the section that you are quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing highlighted in yellow. I do not want you to refer to sources other than this web site for this project, but, if you do, you **MUST** provide a bibliography and photocopies of all sources (with the sections you quote, paraphrase, or summarize highlighted in yellow).

## Critique Day:

For critique day complete the *Argument Essay Draft Cover Sheet* available on the course web site (under assignments) and attach a completed copy of this cover sheet to each of the two copies of your draft that you bring to class. If you do not bring a complete draft (1400 words minimum) and two copies of that draft to class, I will lower your final paper grade by 10%.

## Final Draft

Carefully prepare your final draft submission folder so that it complies with all of the requirements outlined in the syllabus. If all requirements are not met, I will return the paper to you un-graded and apply late penalties to the paper.