

Paper #1: Get on Your Soap Box

In the old days, when people wished to make a speech in a place of public gathering, they usually stood on a wooden box and spoke. Soap used to be packed in sturdy wooden boxes for shipment and sale, and once in the store, the owners would unpack the soap and discard the wooden boxes, which were then scavenged and reused as speaking platforms by people who wanted to speak to the public. These speakers stood on top of the box in order that everyone in the audience could see them. The wooden box was called a "soapbox" and anyone who "got on the soapbox" was going to talk about something that s/he felt very strongly about.

Speaking to persuade others is a long tradition. In Hyde Park in London, for example, is the original "Speaker's Corner" – a place where speakers 'get up on their soapbox' to persuade others on any SOCIAL CONTROVERSY about which the speaker feels passionate. *For this paper, a "Social Controversy" will be defined as an area of disagreement in one of these areas: politics, government, moral/religious questions, education, culture, health, science or technology, the environment, international or global issues, or human rights.*

In this paper, you are asked to consider some social controversy about which you are passionate, and persuade your reader to feel the same way. I will be looking for a clear introductory statement that orients the audience to your topic. Then, focus on expressing and articulating clearly expressed *reasons* that support your conclusion, expressed in a way that will convince your audience that they too should care about this topic. Be sure to include full *explanations*, as well as clear and vivid examples or other evidence that support your reasons. The more full and complete your discussion of each idea, the more persuasive it is likely to be. Close your paper with a thought that wraps up and closes your discussion. Since we are just beginning to understand how to formulate arguments, I will be looking for some application of beginning course concepts, especially the formulation of complete arguments, but I am equally interested in how you express your ideas in a persuasive way.

Length: Minimum of two full pages, maximum around three pages

Typed: 12 point, 1 inch margins, double spaced, black or dark ink

Value: 15 points

Due Date: See Greensheet