COM-822 Persuasive Communication

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November 28, 2022

Professor

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Assignment

### 60-Days: Thesis Finalization and Argumentative Research Paper Outline

### 60 Day – Thesis Finalization and Argumentative Research Paper Outline 1. Review the Professor’s recommendations regarding your thesis statement. Use the Thesis Statement Generator to write a well-developed thesis statement. Be sure to complete items 2 through 5 and then select “Generate your Thesis” 2. Revise your thesis statement according to your Professor’s recommendations, if needed. 3. Develop a sentence outline for your argumentative essay. Include main points and sub- points for your argument and the counter-arguments you will present. Make sure your outline clearly indicates the direction of your argument. Provide one properly cited (APA) quotation that you can use to support each of the main points and sub-points in your outline. Use quotations from the references you listed in your 20-day assignment plus additional references if needed. 4. Update your Works Cited list to include your instructor’s recommendations and any additional resources you cited in your outline. 5. Using the Works Cited from your 20-Day assignments and additional resources discovered during your research, create developmental readings using the developmental reading rubric and format. The readings should support your arguments and counterarguments.

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PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION/ARGUMENTATIVE OVERVIEW

**THESIS TITLE**: Older volunteers risk isolation and social disconnect in a Post-Pandemic World

**THESIS STATEMENT:**

The process of engaging in-person volunteers––particularly older volunteers––must be adapted to a post-pandemic world.

**KEY WORDS:** COVID-19 Pandemic, Post-Pandemic Era, Volunteer Engagement, Older Volunteers, Vulnerability, Social Isolation, Community Connection, Adaptation, Accommodation, Program Modification

PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. In the post-pandemic era, it is essential for 100% volunteer-based organizations to adapt their volunteer recruitment and retention strategies in order to accommodate older volunteers from the community.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically reduced community volunteer participation––particularly that of older volunteers.
4. In order to encourage greater volunteer participation organizations must make modifications to their protocols in order to accommodate vulnerable, but otherwise willing, volunteers.

II. Main Argument One –

1. Colibaba (2022) asserts that during the pandemic and continuing into the post-pandemic era, older volunteers, being at higher risk of COVID-19 infection due to compromised immune systems, felt and continue to feel vulnerable and therefore hesitant to volunteer despite feeling disconnected from fellow volunteers (p. 3).
2. Older individuals can be encouraged to begin or resume volunteer work if they can be assured that their personal safety is upheld by the organization.

“Older peoples’ heightened vulnerabilities to COVID-19 have raised awareness about the need for isolated rural older adults to maintain social connections. To support this challenge, rural volunteer-based programs offer support for isolated residents and opportunities for participation and social networking through volunteering” (Colibaba (2022), p. 3).

III. Main Argument Two –

A. Organizations have been hesitant to support volunteers, due to concerns about risk.

B. “If your organisation works with people with weakened immune systems, older people, those with disabilities or those with long-term health conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease, it’s important that you plan to limit their risk to being exposed” (To, 2020, p. 6).

C. Organizations’ concerns about risk led them to dismiss older volunteers from in-person interaction.

“Consider enabling staff and volunteers who are have vulnerabilities and are understandably concerned about their health to take leave or time off or to volunteer or work from home” (To, 2020, p. 6).

IV. Main Argument Three –

A. In order to encourage greater volunteer participation––particularly that of older volunteers––organizations must make modifications to their protocols in order to accommodate otherwise willing volunteers.

B. “Having a supportive program that is willing to modify its health and safety policies and procedures strengthened volunteers’ positive attitudes towards continuing to volunteer post-pandemic” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 5).

C. The utility of valuable-yet-vulnerable older volunteers rests upon the adaptability of the organization that seeks their active participation.

V. Opposing Argument One –

1. “Over-70s have been advised to avoid unnecessary social contact, remain largely indoors, and to do any outdoor exercise at a safe distance from others” (Oliver, 2020,   
   p. 1).
2. Although older volunteers are at greater risk of COVID-19 infection from in-person events, they can still volunteer from home.

C. “Embedding training within existing community-based programs holds promise as a potentially sustainable mechanism to provide digital training to older adults” (Fields, 2020, p. 1).

VI. Opposing Argument Two –

1. Older volunteers can volunteer in-person if volunteer organizations adapt their programs.
2. “The attitudes and actions portrayed by volunteers and programs alike, through their personal resiliency to remain a volunteer during the pandemic and through programs’ abilities to adapt, help ensure the sustainability of older voluntarism as a whole” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 5).
3. Older volunteers prefer in-person interaction as long as they feel safe.
4. In-person volunteering sustains the sense of community sustainability.
5. Older volunteers maintain a sense of usefulness and social connectedness that virtual volunteering does not.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Volunteer recruitment and retention strategies must adapt to a post-pandemic world––particularly with regard to older community members. The reluctance of older volunteers to participate is based upon legitimate concerns. This is borne out by current research.

Volunteer-based community organizations, while justifiably concerned about COVID-19 health risks, need to understand that older volunteers derive feelings of social connection and usefulness from interpersonal helping activities; such activities can be modified so that health is safeguarded while still allowing vulnerable volunteers to participate in person.

DEVELOPMENTAL READINGS LOG

**\*\*NOTE regarding Essential Elements:** In the 60-Day Assignments for my other three courses, the quotes/comments were easy to “match up” with course Essential Elements. However, this was not the case with COM 822’s 60-Day. I didn’t want to leave the spaces empty, so I made the effort to at least enter an element.

**Source One:** Colibaba, A., Skinner, M., & Russell, E. (2022). Supporting Older Volunteers &

Sustaining Volunteer-Based Programs in Rural Communities. *Trent Center for Aging & Societies.*

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Rural communities, where populations are aging rapidly, are often challenged to support their older residents, relying on the voluntary sector to provide essential services (Davies et al., 2018)” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the element of researching and referencing scholarly sources.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:**  In my volunteer work with the Hospital Foundation, I’ve witnessed the challenges that our healthcare district faces in providing adequate services to our older residents.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Older peoples’ heightened vulnerabilities to COVID-19 have raised awareness about the need for isolated rural older adults to maintain social connections. To support this challenge, rural volunteer-based programs offer support for isolated residents and opportunities for participation and social networking through volunteering” (Colibaba (2022), p. 3).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the essential element of researching and referencing scholarly sources.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** While our healthcare district was concerned about the safety of our Foundation’s older volunteers, accommodations were made because the district leaders wanted Foundation members to remain connected to our community. Thus, they permitted Zoom meetings and approved adaptive ways for us to host our Tree of Lights fundraising event.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Older volunteers may positively influence the sustainability of rural communities – ensuring not only the sustainability of the rural economy and services, but also facilitating aging in place and lessening the likelihood that older rural residents become stuck in place” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the element of researching and referencing scholarly sources.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:**  Our older volunteers (in the Foundation) make tremendous contributions to our community. Their sense of purpose and meaning equate to greater wellbeing, as I’ve seen by the way they are aging in place and remaining vibrant.

**Source Two:** To, R. (2020). A Practical Guide For Volunteer Involving Organizations.

*policy*, *2*(6251), 4060. https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA\_Practical\_Guide\_For\_VIOs.pdf

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “If your organisation works with people with weakened immune systems, older people, those with disabilities or those with long-term health conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease, it’s important that you plan to limit their risk to being exposed” (To, 2020, p. 6).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the element of choosing a topic and writing an argument.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is both additive and variant to my argument. On the one hand yes, it is imperative that weaker people be shielded from the risk of virus exposure. On the other hand, they should not be stuck at home with no way to contribute to the community.

**Contextualization:** Our healthcare district initially ordered Foundation members to stay home. However, once adequate PPEs were available in the valley, members were welcome to meet remotely and conduct our business, as well as plan (and carry out) our Tree of Lights ceremony.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Consider enabling staff and volunteers who are have vulnerabilities and are understandably concerned about their health to take leave or time off or to volunteer or work from home” (To, 2020, p. 6).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the element of adapting a style and tone.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation members were permitted to take time off and abstain from meetings and fundraising efforts.

**Source Three:** Oliver, D. (2020). David Oliver: What the pandemic measures reveal about

ageism. *BMJ*, *369*. DOI: 10.1136/bmj.m1545

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Over-70s have been advised to avoid unnecessary social contact, remain largely indoors, and to do any outdoor exercise at a safe distance from others” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of applying knowledge and skills to all written material.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** A month after the initial pandemic uncertainties in early 2020, our Foundation members were permitted to gather––at first remotely, then with warmer weather we met outdoors wearing masks and sitting 6 feet apart.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “…even the Equality Act allows for some “differentiation” based on age, as “a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:**  This comment pertains to outlining my argument.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation was not forced into any form of “differentiation.” Instead, we were permitted to determine our own rules for safely meeting.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Older people are already prone to social isolation, loneliness, and their effects on mental health” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment helps to identify a central theme.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Older people are indeed prone to social isolation even without a pandemic! Our Foundation, being comprised of persons aged 50+, refused to disengage from the important work that we do. Our ability to adapt and carry on served us well.

**Source Four:** Toquero, C. M. D. (2021). Psychological, Physical, and Social Health Needs of

the Aging Society and Post-Pandemic Recommendations on Gerontology. *European Journal* *of Environment and Public Health*, *5*(2), em0080. https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/11055

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Since they are vulnerable to the negative effects of the coronavirus, such as anxiety, depression, and isolation, this sense of security and emotional fulfillment is absolutely critical during this time of social and physical isolation” (Toquero, 2021, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of applying knowledge and skills to all written material.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Toquero states that older people need emotional fulfillment. I witnessed emotional fulfillment as our Foundation members resumed our meetings (modified though they were). We laughed, we cried, we shared stories of fear and loss. But through that sharing we maintained our sense of emotional and social connectedness. Our shared purpose pulled us through and kept us focused on our roles, tasks and ultimate goals.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Agencies or support groups can create volunteerism among older adults.” (Toquero, 2021, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of framing valid points.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation members became its own support group. We stayed in communication with one another during the lockdowns. We then resumed our planning meetings as soon as we could. And we made our annual Tree of Lights fundraising ceremony a success by adapting the event so that attendees to remain in their cars (drive-in theater style) or watch the ceremony live via Facebook or as archived on YouTube.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “older adults located in rural settings have higher rates of some form of underlying health conditions, but they have limited access to health care and can experience volatile circumstances because of the COVID -19 (Henning-Smith, 2020)” (Toquero, 2021, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of developing a working knowledge of APA 7 style and grammar.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument. I question Toquereo’s statement that older adults in rural settings are underserved in health care.

**Contextualization:** Our healthcare district, while small and rural, maintains (and maintained during the pandemic) full services to all residents including older residents. Our emergency department remained fully staffed, and any person in respiratory distress was seen quickly.

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