

## Persuasive Essay Assignment

Using specific examples of propaganda techniques from the literary text we explored and the online political advertisements, write a well-organized essay that argues in support or against the following statement:

“It is essential in a democratic society that young people and adults learn how to think, learn how to make up their minds. They must learn how to think independently, and they must learn how to think together. They must come to conclusions, but at the same time they must recognize the right of other men to come to opposite conclusions. So far as individuals are concerned, the art of democracy is the art of thinking and discussing independently together.”

(Institute for Propaganda Analysis. *The Fine Art of Propaganda*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1939)

In your essay, be sure to

- communicate a clear position on the statements above
- develop your position with paragraphs that include clear examples
- explain fully how your examples support or illustrate your points in relation to your overall position
- organize your ideas purposefully, using transitions to show relationships among ideas at the sentence, paragraph, and essay level
- use variety in sentence structure and word choice

As you edit and revise, be sure clean up any errors in grammar, spelling, or usage that would detract from your argument or confuse the reader.