

## Classroom Activities Referenced in “Multiple Texts for Multiple Contexts”

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<i>Note: Two sample essays provided with “Multiple Texts for Multiple Contexts” may be used with this exercise. See the objective research report “Hybrids and Diesels” and the position statement “Diesels: The Smart Choice” in “SampleEssays.pdf” at <a href="http://www.nextlevelonline.org">www.nextlevelonline.org</a>.</i>	
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## The Writing Situation

Brainstorm about the different writing tasks you have engaged in recently, whether at home, at school, or elsewhere. For each task, describe the writing situation by answering three questions:

- **Who was the audience?** Perhaps a family member, friend, job supervisor, teacher or yourself.
- **What kind of text did you create?** Some examples: message on a birthday card, email, class notes or essay, school newspaper article, Web site text, poem or song.
- **What was your purpose in writing?** Maybe you were explaining information, discovering new information or ideas, persuading or convincing your reader, reflecting on an experience, or maybe evaluating and making judgments. These examples are general; give more detail in your answer.

Audience	Kind of Text	Purpose
<u>Sample Situation</u> A friend, who was mad at me, who is my partner on a class project due in five days	Email	Persuade: convince her I'm truly sorry for something I said Discovery: start suggesting ideas for our project
<u>Situation #1</u>		
<u>Situation #2</u>		
<u>Situation #3</u>		
<u>Situation #4</u>		

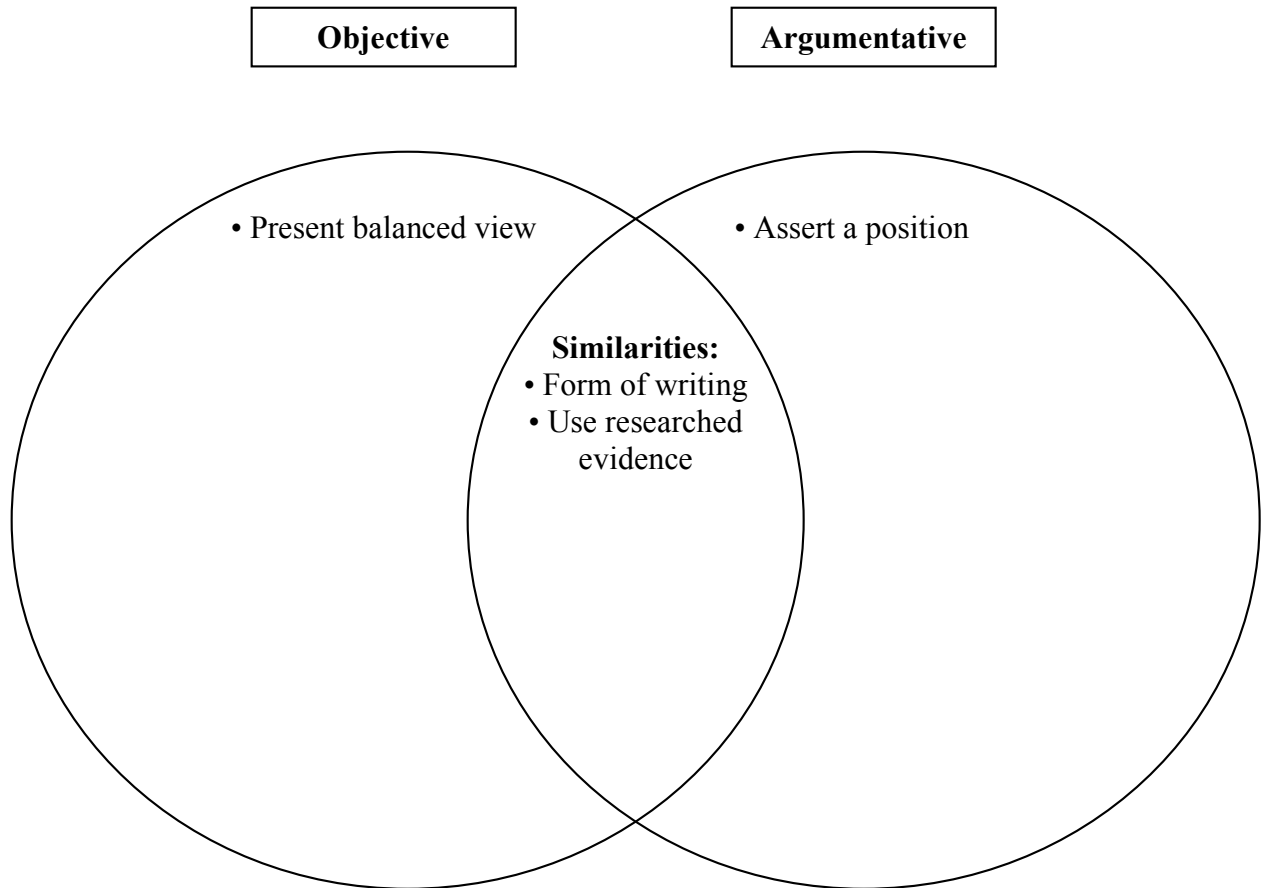
Now choose two of the writing tasks above and answer these questions for each:

- **How was your writing process different for each situation?**
- **Specifically, what role did revision play in your writing process for each text?**

Situation # ____	Situation # ____
<u>Writing Process</u>	<u>Writing Process</u>
<u>Revision</u>	<u>Revision</u>

## Two Purposes for Writing: Objective and Argumentative

Work with a partner to complete the Venn Diagram. What are the major similarities and differences between an objective report and an argumentative essay?



## Revising with Purpose: Objective and Argumentative

Revise the following statements and passages either from objective to argumentative or from argumentative to objective. What changes do you make, and why?

Objective Statement	Argumentative Statement
	What has happened to our society? As the demand for designer clothes increases among America's youth, we must examine the problems that are involved when adolescents become obsessed with brand name clothes. (40).
During the 2002 academic school year, approximately 9,000 tickets were given to students who either parked incorrectly or did not possess a parking permit (47).	
	The exploding student population was painfully obvious during the Fall 2000 semester when students were forced to park illegally on the sides of roads at the beginning of the semester (47).
There are some people who believe that dreams have extremely deep hidden meanings, while others regard dreams as simply "day residue" from the day's events. Here we will look at a comparison of two different theories of dream interpretation (52).	
	Because the air is not filtered [in the dorm] anything in the hallways is sucked into the system and then blown into students' rooms through vents caked with mildew, mold and fungus. I propose a simple solution for the university: buy filters for the AC and open the windows. It is a simple investment in health (32).
Both positive and adverse effects are documented in this study, as well as the special situations that occur when Ritalin is taken in overdose (48).	

Note: The passages above were taken from essays written by Texas college and university students, most in their freshman year. They were published in this booklet:

*The Next Level—What Colleges Expect from Your Writing*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Book online. Association of Texas Colleges and Universities, 2004. Available from <http://www.nextlevelonline.org>.