



<http://gaymarriage.procon.org/>

"Should Gay Marriage Be Legal?"

On June 26, 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage is a right protected by the US Constitution in all 50 states. Prior to their decision, same-sex marriage was already legal in 37 states and Washington DC, but was banned in the remaining 13. US public opinion had shifted significantly over the years, from 27% approval of gay marriage in 1996 to 60% in 2015.

Proponents of legal gay marriage contend that gay marriage bans are discriminatory and unconstitutional, and that same-sex couples should have access to all the benefits enjoyed by different-sex couples.

Opponents contend that marriage has traditionally been defined as being between one man and one woman, and that marriage is primarily for procreation.

Using this ProCon website, which has facts, statistics, and viewpoints from both sides of this issue, as well as the Taking Sides article, **take a position and write a persuasive essay over the question, should same-sex marriage be legal?**

Be specific by backing up your position with evidence: statistics, facts, quotes, court case decisions, studies, etc. Don't just argue your point, but also argue why the opposing view's position is wrong or misguided in your view.

Requirements:

- 3-4 pages
- typed
- double-spaced
- 12-pt. font size, Times New Roman font
- must have a title to your paper
- must include specific quotations from the reading that are correctly cited in-text
- refer to the attached rubric for more specifics as to what I will be looking for

Persuasive Essay Rubric

INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION (15pts) – How well did you start your paper and summarize your position? Do you have a clearly stated thesis? How well did you end your paper and summarize your position?

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HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.) – Did you use specific examples from the reading, the ProCon site, and other handouts to back up your argument? Do you use specific quotes from the reading and website? Do you argue why the opposing view's position is wrong?

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PERSUASIVENESS (15 pts.) – How persuasive was your argument?

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GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (15 pts.) – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren't any errors? Correct use of in-text citations?

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MISC. (5 pts.) – Is your paper the required length? Title? Typed? Correct font?

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TOTAL: _____ /100