

University of Electro-Communications—English for Self-Study
Assignment 1 (distributed April 13, 2020): Learning to Write a One-Sided Argument

During the first semester (前期) at the University of Electro-Communications (電気通信大学), you will take two English classes, Academic Spoken English I and Academic Written English I. In these classes, one thing that you will learn is how to write a one-sided argument. An argument, basically, is an opinion with reasons. In some arguments, you might include both reasons which support your opinion and reasons which are against your opinion. However, in a one-sided argument, you *only include reasons which support your opinion*. That is why it is called a *one-sided argument*.

Again, a one-sided argument consists of an opinion and reasons to support the opinion. A one-sided argument follows a particular organization. It starts with *relevant background information*, though this is optional. (“Relevant” means that it is related to the topic.) Then, there is a *clear statement of the opinion*. Next, there are *multiple reasons* (usually two, three, or four reasons) to support the opinion. After the reasons, the *opinion* is stated again. Finally, there may be *one or more recommendations*, though these are also optional.

Look at the following example of a one-sided argument. Can you identify the different parts (relevant background information, first statement of opinion, supporting reasons, second statement of opinion, recommendations)?

Question: Do you think that animal testing should be banned? Why or why not?

It is common practice to do animal testing before new medication can be put on the market. There are many cases where the field of medicine improved only because animal testing was possible. In my opinion, animal testing should not be banned.

First, researchers must confirm that new medicines are safe for human beings. Animals that reproduce quickly are used, so that researchers can repeat the tests many times. In addition, mice, pigs and birds are very often used because it is believed that they react to medicine in similar ways to human beings do.

Second, researchers obviously cannot test on human beings in the beginning because new medicine may be dangerous. They must test on animals first in order to know that they can continue to develop the new medication.

Therefore, animal testing is necessary to protect human beings and to ensure the advancement of medicine in the future. Researchers must be careful, though, not to use animals wastefully.

What do you think? Do you understand how to write a one-sided argument?

ASSIGNMENT 1:

Answer the following question with a one-sided argument (about 150 words).

Do you think that human cloning should be banned? Why or why not?