

PHIL04

Chapter 4 “Quiz”

1. Background texts/viewing

We’ve considered commercials for bottled water such as the following in class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEc5foJ9pIE>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfZUIsSNxLE>

We’ve also considered a critique of bottled water in the following video (begin at 16:48):

<http://www.itshealthywater.com/d.cgi/lighttoflave/pennteller.htm>

The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) has produced a short video intended to provide consumers with “the facts about bottled water”. It addresses several (but not all) of Penn & Teller’s claims. Please find the video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eklg6j2G2pk>

2. In a typed paper of about one page (200-250 words), please answer the following:

Based on the considerations we’ve seen, should we be any more or less likely to buy bottled water than we were before? Why?

Note: I am asking you to take an **argumentative position** here. Merely stating your opinion is not enough. Your aim is to **persuade your reader** that he/she should adopt your point of view. When doing this, you should **assume that your reader does not already agree** with you. **Assume that he/she will have objections** to your views, and **address these** in your paper.

When constructing your argument, it may help to begin by considering/answering the following questions:

- Describe at least three separate reasons that the commercials give consumers for buying bottled water.
- Did the short film (Penn & Teller) address/criticize these reasons? How?
- How does the IBWA’s news release address Penn & Teller’s criticisms?
- Penn & Teller seem to think that purchasing bottled water is irrational. Do *you* think this is correct? Why?

Papers may be selected at random to be read in front of the class for discussion purposes, but at no time will the identity of a paper’s author be revealed.
