Task Sheet for Research Paper #1

(First Draft)

Let’s review what you have accomplished so far: You have articulated a research question, formulated a plan for conducting your research, and have also identified a number of sources to get you started. Now it is time to go through those sources (i.e., reading and annotating them), carefully glean relevant information from them, digest the information and ideas therein, identify any caveats, and begin to put into prose form the answer to your research question. I anticipate this task taking twenty or so hours. A word of advice: Do not become distraught if a crystal-clear answer to your research question does not emerge right away.

Using 12-point Times New Roman font, in no less than eight (8) pages and no more than ten (10) pages of content present your findings. These parameters are for *content*, exclusive of heading/title page and references. Going outside these parameters will result in a lower score proportional to the length over or under the above the assigned range. **Use APA formatting**

As mentioned earlier, your research paper will need at least ten (10) sources:

* At least two (2) of those ten must be books.
* At least six (6) of those ten must be from peer-reviewed journals.
* That means no more than two (2) of your ten sources can be newspapers or magazines (unless you choose to include more than the required ten sources).

This ten-source minimum implies there will be at least one in-text citation for each source and, therefore, at least ten in-text citations. However, each source may very well be cited more than once, so the expected ten in-text citations is a bare minimum, not a maximum. Both your references and in-text citations are to be presented in APA format.

Let the following *process* guide your approach to this draft:

1. Identify the related questions that need to be answered and the key ideas which need to be explained.
2. Identify the key pieces of information relevant to the above.
3. Plan out the general organization of the above.
4. Write the draft. Along the way, make notes to yourself about additional questions, sources, and ideas—particularly those which could be useful in Paper #2, the upcoming argumentative research paper.
5. Revise the draft.
6. Edit the draft.
7. Proofread the draft.
8. Have at least two other people read it, looking for blind spots, language errors, and ideas for strengthening your argument.

Your draft is due at the date and time announced in the course syllabus. Upload via Turnitin.