**Researched ArgumentativeEssay Assignment**

This assignment is designed to allow you to discover information about a topic of interest to you and guide you through forming a researching hypothesis. Your research question will lead you through the beginning stages until you can form an argument of your own. Your research question needs be focused on a topic you have *not* researched previously for another class. For this essay, you will focus your research on an interest of your own, whether it be a related field/topic of your major or a more personal interest.For your audience, consider that this paper will reach your classmates and myself, therefore, you must choose an appropriate voice/tone and use skills we have practiced throughout the semester to recognize your audience, evaluate sources and arguments, develop a clear thesis, and express a logical progression of thoughts. This entire project accounts for 30% of your final grade in the course and should represent skills learned throughout the semester.

**STEP 3: GETTING TO THE DRAFT, REVISION, AND KEY DATES**

Friday, April 5th: Submit Research Proposal to Canvas by 11:59 PM

Monday, April 13th: Submit Annotated Bibliography to Canvas by 3:00 PM

Monday, April 22nd: Online “Conferences”

Monday, April 27th: First draft due to Canvas (5 pages) by 3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 29th: Online Peer Review

Monday, May 4th: Final draft due. (Canvas)

**STEP 4: HANDING IN THE FINAL RESEARCHED ESSAY**

When you hand in your final draft of your researched persuasive essay, you must include the following additional materials:

* A reflective cover letter in which you reflect on the process and path of writing this essay. In the reflection, tell me about what happened between each draft, moments of frustration and how you got through them, moments of discovery or new directions and how they affected the essay, and feedback from peer review. I want to read about everything I cannot see by looking at your draft. This letter should be at least **three paragraphs (single-spaced)** in length so it fits on one page. This reflective cover letter should be the absolute first page of your essay.
* A **clean**, proofread, professional-looking copy uploaded to Canvas.

**Requirements**

* **Paper format**: The essay should be 6-8 pages in length (not including works cited/reference page, reflection, or title page), with one-inch margins, 12pt. Times New Roman or Cambria font, and a clear choice between MLA or APA style. Do not use phrases such as “I think” or “I believe.”
* **Title**: An effective title that gets a reader’s interest and leads them into your topic.
* **Sources**: You need a minimum of five sources. All sources need to be evaluated for reliability (CRAAP test).
  + You are encouraged, but not required to have a primary source.
  + All sources cannot be the same type (internet article, journal article, book, magazine, etc.)
  + At least one source must be from a peer-reviewed journal/ academic database.
  + Sources may be in your native language, but the majority need to be in English.
* **Citations**: Our class and the university have a strict policy on plagiarism. All courses and material must be correctly cited in the format of your choosing. All summaries, paraphrases, and quotes should be integrated into your essay.

**Evaluation Method**

Your essay will be graded in two parts: your final product and your research process according to the following criteria.

**Final Draft Criteria (80% of final grade)**

* **Central Theme and Content:** Central theme is well defined an carried out throughout the essay. Content is clear, focused, and synthesized.
* **Organization:** Organization enhances and showcases the central theme. Idea are ordered so that they build upon another and transition between sentences and paragraphs are smooth.
* **Sense of Audience:** An awareness of audience exists throughout the essay as indicated by defining unfamiliar terms, anticipating the readers’ questions, and sensitivity to all potential members of the audience.
* **Stylistic Choices:** Specific and accurate words are used to show intended meaning. Language is varied and clichés are avoided. The writer uses a variety of sentence lengths.
* **MLA/ APA Format:** One style is clearly chosen and executed in the paper. Correct formatting is used throughout the essay, including the heading, page numbers, in-text citations, and Works Cited/ Reference page.
* **Research:** Source requirements are met (at least five, not all the same type of source). Sources are reliable *or* their biases are clearly stated. Research is incorporated smoothly into the essay and works to strengthen the central theme and goal of the paper.
* **Presentation:** Essay is professional presented in terms of relevant title, grammatically clear sentences, consistent verb tenses, and correct spelling and punctuation.

**Process Criteria (20% of final grade)**

* **Reflective Cover Letter**: Letter describes and reflects on what happened between each draft, moments of frustration and how you moved through them, and how they affected the essay, and relevant feedback from peer review and workshops. Letter gives context to pieces of the “paper trail” and is the required length.
* **Paper Trail:** Participation on Peer Review so that I can see your drafts. From this trail, *a person can see significant changes between drafts*. Feedback is considered when these choices were made.