

Researched Argument Prompt

For this assignment, you will write an argument-driven research paper with a strong, tension-filled thesis. To do this, first you will *identify* a topic that interests you. In class we will discuss what to consider when choosing a topic, but I encourage you to select something you care about because you will be deeply engaged with it for the final month and a half of this course.

Your paper *will stake out your position and evidence* on the topic you have chosen. To do this well, you will start by doing research in the library database, using books and scholarly articles to understand the issues, approaches, and stakes at play in the ongoing conversation about your topic. As you do this research, you will formulate your own specific proposed solution/answer to the question at hand, and you will reference the sources you find in order to position your argument among the answers other writers suggest.

The process of writing a long paper with a sustained argument about a complex issue is not an easy task. Therefore, there will be *several shorter assignments* you complete and turn in as you move from topic selection to research to writing, revision, and submission. These components will build on each other, culminating in the 8 to 10 page final paper. Throughout the process, you will receive feedback on your project at various points, including responses from your peers, a one-on-one conference with me, and my written comments on a draft. I also encourage you to make appointments at the Writing Center.

Assignment Details

Length and format: 8-10 pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.

Sources/citations: Use MLA citation style. You must cite at least 5 sources in your paper (no more than 2 of which may be websites).

Submission: Submit all parts of the assignment through Sakai. As always with subsequent (beyond first) drafts, include a reflection cover letter (300 word minimum) discussing your revision process.

Evaluation Criteria – Research Paper	Exemplary	Competent	Developing
Rhetorical Choices (e.g., Is the paper clearly aimed at a specific audience? Does the writer have a clear argument?)			
Rhetorical Moves/Organization (e.g., Is the essay structured logically and persuasively? Are paragraphs linked with strong topic sentences?)			

Evidence (e.g., Is there enough information for the writer to make a strong argument? Are there at least 5 scholarly sources? Are those sources well integrated?)			
Style/Mechanics (e.g., Does the writer employ a style that is readable for the audience? Is the document free of errors?)			
Documentation (e.g., Does the report feature accurate, ethical, and consistent documentation of sources?)			