

Researched Argument

Honors English 110: Writing (and Rewriting) the Past

Spring 2014, Wessel

The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, it will introduce you to college level research and argumentation. Second, in line with the theme of the course, this paper will ask you to become critical readers and responsible writers of history.

You will choose a specific historical moment that interests you. Begin to think about the potential problems in the way this history has been told. In order to do this, you should think about who has told this history, when, using what sorts of evidence, for what ends, etc. Develop a specific and compelling question that you wish to answer through your research. And finally, construct an argument using your primary and secondary sources.

When assessing your paper, I will be looking for:

- A thesis that is arguable and narrow enough to be supported in 8-10 pages.
- Substantial support for your thesis, including consideration of counterarguments
- Effective organization
- An academic tone
- An introduction that is on topic right away, forecasting what the reader can expect is coming in the paper, and a conclusion that gives your readers a sense of closure
- Paraphrasing and quotations from sources that are smoothly incorporated into your own prose, with their significance to your argument explained
- Information from at least 6 sources
- Properly cited sources (both in the works cited page and in-text citations)

Format:

- 8-10 pages, double-spaced in 12 pt., Times New Roman font
- Standard 1 inch margins
- You must use MLA citation style. Please refer to the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University for up-to-date formatting guidelines.
- Your paper must incorporate at least 6 sources. See below for details.

Sources: You are required to use a minimum of 6 sources; there is no maximum. At least three of these sources must be primary sources. At least three must be scholarly secondary sources (either books or peer-reviewed journal articles that you have found using the University's databases).

Academic Integrity: Any work that you submit at any stage of the writing process must be your own; in addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from other people and include in your work must be properly documented. Failure to do either of these things is plagiarism. The University of Delaware protects the right of all students by insisting that individual students act with integrity. Accordingly, the University severely penalizes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Writing as a Process: Prior to writing your paper, you will submit a research proposal (see guidelines below). Additionally, you will submit a draft of your paper to our writing fellow and meet with her to discuss it. Failure to do so will result in 10% off your final paper grade.

Research Proposal Guidelines

Before you begin writing your researched argument, you will submit a proposal in which you will identify your topic, scope, initial sources, and research questions. Your proposal should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced and should begin by identifying the conversation you are entering. It should end with the question(s) you aim to answer in your researched argument. The question should be focused yet wide enough to invite more than one answer. In the lead-up to the question, synthesize the conversation that your sources are partaking in. Your lead-up should also be clear about why the question poses a problem and why it is a significant problem worth our time. Most importantly, the question should address a problem which actually puzzles you. If you think you know the answer, there is no point in asking.

There is a sample proposal in the resources folder on Sakai.

Submission: you will submit your final draft through the “assignments” link on Sakai. Your document must be saved as a Word document or a Rich Text File. If I cannot open your document, it will be counted late. Please title your document with your last name and the assignment title (ex: Smith-ResearchedArgument).

Important Dates:

Proposal: Thursday, March 13

Draft: Tuesday, April 15

Final Draft: Tuesday, April 29