

Researched Argument

Honors English 110: Who Owns That?
Fall 2015, Wessel

The researched argument is an opportunity to enter an academic conversation about a complex problem. Through research and meaningful engagement with sources, you will situate yourself in relation to the other voices in the conversation. After carefully considering their arguments, you will craft your own argument in an attempt to “solve” the problem you have laid out in your digital proposal.

A successful paper will bring together the skills we have been practicing all semester. You will identify a problem. You will come to terms with a range of sources to determine how they deal with the problem. You will synthesize these sources, putting them in conversation with one another. And you will push the conversation forward, positioning yourself in relation to your sources. Effective argumentation requires recognizing and responding to alternate viewpoints, and as such, I expect you to find opinions that differ from your own.

When assessing your paper, I will be looking for:

- A thesis that is arguable and narrow enough to be supported in 9 to 11 pages
- Substantial support for your thesis, including consideration of alternate viewpoints
- Effective organization (you should guide your reader with clear topic sentences and logical transitions)
- 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
- Meaningful engagement with at least 4 sources through summary, paraphrasing, and quotation
- Properly cited sources (both in the works cited page and in-text citations)

Format:

- 9 to 11 pages, double-spaced in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with 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 4 substantial sources. See below for details.

Sources: You are required to use a minimum of 4 sources; there is no maximum. These sources must be substantial pieces of writing in respected publications. This includes books, peer-reviewed journals, and well-regarded magazines like *The Atlantic* and *The New Yorker*). In addition to these sources, you may incorporate additional sources including reliable websites.

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: A series of assignments, meetings, and drafts will lead up to the final paper. You will begin by submitting a digital proposal and presenting that proposal to the class in a three-minute project pitch. As you begin working on the paper itself, you will meet with me to discuss your argument, outline, and sources. Finally, you will submit a draft of your paper to your writing fellow and meet with her or him to discuss it. Failure to do so will result in 10% off your final paper grade.

Submission: you will submit your final draft through the “assignments” link on Canvas. 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:

Digital Proposal: Friday, October 29

Project Pitches: November 3 and 5

Draft: Tuesday, December 1

Final Draft: Monday, December 14