

Advocacy Research Paper

Tasks:

In this assignment, you will compose an argument about a current controversy of your choice. Your argument must be supported by research. In this paper, you will make a claim and build an argument to support it (refer to *Everything's an Argument* for ideas about arguments of fact, definition, evaluation, causation). You will use credible sources to demonstrate that you understand other perspectives concerning your topic and to support your own claim. You may choose to focus on the same theme that you covered in your annotated bibliography or pick another topic we have discussed.

Requirements:

- Create a clear thesis that summarizes the controversy and states your argument.
- Frame and define your controversy; as we've discussed, there are many ways to frame a debate, and you should find a way that is appropriate for the topic.
- Make sure the paragraphs have clear main ideas that are supporting your thesis.
- Support your claims with evidence from credible research; please refer to your notes from our in-class research discussion and to the handout on the research process.
- Demonstrate that you understand, through responsible research, points of view that are different than—even in opposition to—your own.

Process:

- Writing a research paper is a process involving multiple steps. In order to focus not only on the product but also on the process of writing, there will be smaller deadlines embedded into the larger project.
 - Monday, March 14, proposal and research plan (5 points)
 - Monday, March 21, draft (5 points) and peer workshop (5 points)
 - Monday, March 28, final draft, (50 points)

Purpose:

- To construct a coherent, well-structured argument concerning one of the themes of the class.
- To improve writing skills through writing a sustained argument
- To utilize rhetorical analysis while engaging in critical thinking about sources
- To practice research skills and proper citation
- To better understand the process of writing, from brainstorming to proofreading
- To engage critically in a topic that is interesting and exciting to you.

Grading criteria:

Students who complete the tasks and meet the expectations mentioned above will earn a satisfactory grade in the "C" and "B" range. Students earning high "B"s and "A"s will have demonstrated mastery of the tasks and expectations by exceeding the requirements listed above. Students who do not meet the requirements will earn a grade of "D" or "F."

Formatting and other minutia:

- The final paper will be 7-8 pages
- Times New Roman font, 1" margins
- Cite at least 5 different sources; at least one must be a scholarly, peer reviewed article or book
- Use MLA formatting conventions
- I strongly encourage you to visit me during my office hours or make an appointment to meet me in order to talk about your research topic.