

ENG 122

Academic Writing II

Homework Essay #5

Research Paper

24th  
Date Due: February 24, 2020

**Research Assignment:** Choose a contemporary moral/social issue, such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, or genetic engineering and research at least three scholarly sources on the topic you choose. Take notes as you research, and use what you learn in your research to help you write this essay. You must properly document ideas, quotations and paraphrases you borrow from the outside sources that you include in your essay. We will discuss the documentation process in class.

**Writing Assignment:** Write a five page essay, in which you take a stand on the moral/social issue you choose to address. For example, abortion is morally right, morally wrong or sometimes morally right and morally wrong, and you must choose which side of the issue for which you will argue. You must refer to all of the outside sources you researched in your essay. The thesis statement should clearly indicate which side of the argument you will take and appear in the essay's beginning. The middle of the essay should provide evidence that supports your thesis statement, i.e. gives reasons why your audience (our class) should believe your thesis. The ending of the essay should either summarize your argument or lay out a lesson you think your audience should learn from your essay. Remember what you read in Chapters 3 and 4 of our textbook about constructing an argumentative essay.

**Helpful Suggestions:** Write the essay in double-spaced format, using grammatically correct language and punctuation to the best of your ability. Use a style appropriate to an academic audience, i.e. your classmates and me. Use the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide* to help with grammar, punctuation, word choice, etc. Use a dictionary or the spell check function of your word processing program to help with spelling.

This essay will count as 15% of your final course grade.

For evidence to support your thesis, you may use personal experiences, as well as other information taken from scholarly sources that you research. You must use at least three scholarly sources for this assignment. You may also use other people's experiences to substantiate your thesis statement's claim.

I will evaluate your essay from the standpoints of substance, organization, style and correctness. In proofreading and editing your essay, think about each of these areas and how you might improve the essay from each standpoint. Good luck!