

### Essay #3: Researched Argument

This assignment draws on all the steps you have taken so far in responding to and making claims. The purpose of a researched argument is often to persuade and frequently includes a recommendation or call to action. What you choose to investigate should spring from a desire within you to know something. What are the burning questions you want answered? If you were able to call upon a magic genie to ask but one question, what would it be?

#### **Topic:**

The sky is the limit with this paper. Choose a topic that is of intense interest to you. It could be a controversial political or social issue. It could be an issue relevant to your educational field of study. If you have trouble selecting a topic, keep in mind the essays we have read so far and the many in-class discussions we have had.

Keep the following in mind as you compose your argument:

- Use examples, facts, and statistics from credible sources to support your argument. What makes these examples important? What do your facts mean? What is your interpretation of the evidence?
- Analyze your research. Don't just regurgitate the facts. What makes these examples important? What do your facts mean? What is your interpretation of the evidence?
- What you choose to investigate in this pursuit will determine what kinds of resources you will use. Sometimes it may involve only print sources, other times field research. Both are equally valid and having a variety can strengthen your argument. Feel free to use primary research if you feel it would be beneficial.
- Keep in mind what you have practiced in analyzing arguments, the ways to appeal to readers, and all the tools for research you have at your disposal.

#### **Your paper should include the following sections:**

**Introduction**-Identify your topic and be sure to state a reasonable and specific claim for your argument (thesis). What are you going to prove about your topic? What are you arguing for, or against? Describe a thesis, focus, assertion, proposition, or main point that you are going to show the reader. Tell them what you are going to tell them.

**Background**-provide a brief overall description of your problem's history. Answer the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* questions. The background could be presented chronologically or as two or more sides to the issue.

**Research Methodology or Methods**-Describe how you conducted your research & identify any major limitations of your study (time, access to information, financial resources).

**Findings or Results**-Explain your three to five major findings in depth. Each major finding typically receives one or two paragraphs of coverage. This will be the bulk of your paper.

**Discussion**-Interpret your findings for the audience and state your major conclusions. Revisit your thesis as well as your purpose and main point. Why are your findings important? (2-3 paragraphs)

Conclusion/Recommendations- Tie your claim, evidence and analysis together in a final point for the reader. What have you hoped the reader has learned? Do you have a course of action to recommend? Or is there a final question you would like the reader to consider? You should not introduce any new evidence in your conclusion.

**Format:**

APA format

Minimum of four **scholarly** sources required

✓ At least ~~five~~ typed, double spaced pages with one-inch margins

Twelve point, Times New Roman font

**Dates:**

Topics Due **Wednesday, November 15**

Draft Due & Peer Reviews **Wednesday, November 29**

**Resources:**

Refer to Chapter 15 in your text and *The Little Shawnee Handbook* for citation formatting. In addition to your text, the library and the Writing Center are excellent resources to help you over a hurdle.

**RESEARCH JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

Your 4 Research Journals will each include a source you will use in your report, the full APA citation for that source, and a brief synopsis of the major findings of the source and why you selected it.

RJ 1 & 2      11/20    worth 20 points each

RJ 3 & 4      11/22    worth 20 points each

Each RJ is worth 20 points for a **total** of 80 points possible