

On January 15, 2020, the State of Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, making it the 38th state to ratify the amendment. However, it has not yet been added to the Constitution.

Prompt: First, I want you to tell me what the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is. What does it say? What does it mean? What are its potential legal implications? Second, I want you to tell me when the ERA was proposed, what the ratification process entails, and how we have gotten to this point in the process. What issues remain when it comes to adding the ERA to the Constitution? Third, I want you to discuss why supporters of the ERA think it is needed. Fourth, I want you to discuss opponents' arguments against the ERA. Finally, I want you to tell me whether or not you think the ERA should be added to the U.S. Constitution and why/why not?

In this paper, you need to maintain a professional, academic tone throughout your paper. First-person language is permitted ONLY in the last section of the paper, where you make your recommendation. Otherwise, avoid using first-person language. You should also avoid using contractions, abbreviations, "conversational" language, or profanity. You are trying to establish a level of academic credibility, and so you want to avoid those noted types of language, which tend to hurt credibility.

Your paper should be 5-7 pages in length, typed in English and double-spaced, with one-inch margins. For this paper, you should include at least three outside, academically credible sources as part of your research. You must cite your sources BOTH in the text of your paper where you use them, and in a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. The Works Cited page does not count towards page length. You may use APA, MLA, or Turabian citation formatting, as long as you stay consistent with it throughout your paper. Please, do NOT to use textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or wikis as sources in your paper. Also, pay really close attention to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Proofreading and editing can save you quite a few points in the end.

Before you submit your paper, please note: if you do not use Microsoft Word, be sure to save your file as a DOC or PDF file. Otherwise, I will be unable to open your paper to grade it. For example, if you use Google Docs, which saves as PAGES format, I cannot open those. In Google Docs, save a copy as a DOC or PDF and submit that version, and we will be fine. Thanks!

The reason you need to cite your sources is twofold:

- 1) It gives credit to the person(s) who came up with the idea that you are using, so the reader knows that it is not YOUR idea that you are using. Imagine you came up with an idea, and then someone else started using it and acting like it was THEIR idea! You would be livid! You would threaten to sue! You would accuse them of stealing! You would be right. This is the same thing.
- 2) It gives your paper added credibility. It tells the reader that you think this certain way, AND so does someone else who is academically credible.

If you do not cite your sources properly, both in the text and in a Works Cited page, then you are essentially telling the reader that your paper is YOUR opinion ONLY and nothing more. If I were asking for an opinion paper, that would be fine. However, this is a RESEARCH paper. So, I need to see that you did research, and that you were able to show that you could incorporate it in support of your personal views.