

Formal Writing Assignment #2: A Researched Argument Paper

DUE: Sunday, April 7th at 5:00 PM

The basics:

Typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, **with page numbers, standard MLA formatting, and a title.** Free of all mechanical errors (i.e., errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar). **Late work will not be accepted.**

The assignment:

Through the process of research, you have learned quite a bit about a topic of interest to you and your community. You've gone to the library, you've read and annotated books and articles, and you've conducted an interview. Now that you have become something of an expert on your topic, your goal is to present your research in a logical, well-ordered manner. In addition to sharing your research, you will also offer some kind of evaluation or argument about your topic. In other words, now that you have learned about an issue that is of importance to you and your community, what course of action are you recommending? Where do we go from here?

The details:

- 1.) This paper must be **7-9 pages** in length. You should have a thesis statement in your first paragraph. You should quote research in every paragraph. You should have no more than two block quotes in a paper of this length.
- 2.) This paper should demonstrate what you have learned about your topic. Your paper must include evidence (quotes, statistics, summaries, etc.) from **at least 4** of the following sources: a.) an article from a national or international newspaper, b.) an article from a national or international magazine or journal, c.) a chapter or section from a book, d.) a peer-reviewed scholarly journal article, e.) an interview, f.) a survey.

After each quote, place an MLA in-text citation that states the page number (if there is one) on which that quote can be found. An MLA citation (with a page number) looks like this:

Susie Scientist, in a 1998 article in *The New York Times*, argued that "due to global warming, ocean levels could rise by as much as 2 feet by the year 2080" (33).

Or like this (with no page number):

Some scientists predict that the ocean could rise by as much as 2 feet by 2080 (Scientist).

- 3.) This paper is an exercise in close reading, analysis, and argumentation. Your goal is to shine a new light on some aspect of your topic. Make your reader see something he or she hasn't seen before. Make your reader think about the topic in a new way. You should have your research in front of you the entire time that you're writing. You should summarize what has already been said about your topic. You should quote experts. You may also disagree with experts. You should figure out what *you* think. Ideally, you will discover something new about your topic through the process of writing this paper. Then share that discovery with your reader.
- 4.) Include a works cited page at the end of your paper. The works cited page does not count toward your page count.

Questions? Email or call me.