

Project 3, Part 1: Researched Argument Essay

Essay Rough Draft/Author's Note due 4/1

Essay Revised/Final Draft due 4/15

See more details on the Project 3 rubric

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

You've asked your question. You've done your research. Now, you need to make your argument. For this project, you want to make an argument that convinces a particular audience to take action in some way. You will do this by crafting a strong ethical argument based in reputable sources and composed with care for your audience. Many arguments these days rely on fear or manipulation of the facts. While that may convince an audience in the short term, it often has negative long-term consequences for you, your audience, and the conversation more broadly. Remember the metaphor of the dinner party. At this point, you're crafting a meal with care for your audience, making it as palatable and delicious as possible. You will present them your hard work, the meal/argument you've constructed just for them. Then, it's up to them to take a bite. We cannot force anyone to change their minds, but we can present them with accurate and authoritative information, organized with logic and crafted with care, and ask them to think critically about the information we present. Minds get changed through ethical argument, and crafting research-based arguments is a skill you'll need for the rest of college and beyond. The key terms for this unit are **audience** and **genre**.

THE RESEARCH ESSAY: WHAT ARE WE DOING?

For this project, you will be writing to an audience of your choice. Imagine a specific group composed of skeptical but interested non-experts who are able to be persuaded.

Your formal researched paper will be **7-10 pages long**, a minimum of **2,000 words**. You should include the following:

- An **introduction** that catches the attention of your audience and frames your argument
- A debatable **thesis** that takes a specific stance related to the question you proposed in Project 1
- **Reasons and evidence** that support your position and are
 - compiled from the sources you read on this topic
 - used ethically and accurately
 - organized logically into paragraphs with strong topic sentences
 - integrated into your paragraphs effectively
 - cited clearly and effectively
- Refutation or qualification of a common **counterargument** on your topic
- A **conclusion** that restates your thesis and provides a "so what?" for your audience
- A **works cited/bibliography** formatted in MLA style

You need to use **at least seven sources** in this paper. All sources need to be relevant, reputable, and timely. Remember, at least one of your sources needs to be scholarly and peer-reviewed, and at least one of your sources needs to have been published in the past two years. You may use any sources you have used in previous projects this semester, as long as you evaluate them as a credible source (and I have not

told you otherwise). Not using the appropriate sources may result in a paper that does not receive a passing grade.

All information included in your paper from sources must be cited in your paper. Your works cited page will list all of your sources in MLA bibliographic format (no need to include annotations). All of the sources on your works cited list must be cited in your paper somewhere, and all of the sources in your paper must be on your works cited list. Plagiarism and misuse of sources is unacceptable and may result in a 0 for the project.

THE RESEARCH ESSAY: *WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?*

Your proposal essay should be between 7-10 pages and be at least 2,000 words (the header and works cited page do not count toward the word count or the page limit). The paper should be **double-spaced and in MLA format**. Please include a header with your name and the date, as well as an interesting title. See the formatting template on Blackboard for more information. Your paper should be submitted as a **Word document**. This project is worth 30% of your grade.

THE RESEARCH ESSAY: *WHEN IS IT DUE?*

Rough draft and author's note is due by Friday, 4/1 at 11:59 PM to the Project 3 Research Essay Workshop Draft assignment box on Blackboard ***if you want feedback from Dr. K***. Otherwise, draft is due to the assignment box by **Monday, 4/4 at class time**. (See Week 12/13 for more information.)

Bring one printed copy of Project 3 to **Peer Workshop** on Monday, 4/4 during class.

Final draft of Project 3 is due by Friday, 4/15 at 11:59 PM to the Project 3 Final: Researched Essay assignment box on Blackboard.