

Paper 4: Research Project

Eng-W131-23

Instructor: Ryan P. Shepherd

- Assignment: Thoroughly analyze an issue, arguing for a certain perspective. The issue may be political, moral, historical, or otherwise, but your position must be thoroughly supported through research and logic. The arguments in the paper should be your own and *not those expressed in your research*. Quotes and paraphrases should be used as support for arguments and not as the arguments themselves. Choose a topic that you can go in-depth with within the page requirement and not something that will just skim the surface of the issue. Do not pick a topic unless the research could possibly change your position on the issue (in other words, do not pick a topic that you already feel VERY strongly about).
 - Examples of Appropriate Research Topics:
 - Why the current situation in Iraq is the direct result of United States aid.
 - Why human sexuality is determined by advertising (or family, or culture).
 - Why Germany invading Russia in the summer was the turning point in WWII.
 - Why Neanderthals were actually a form of Homo sapiens (or a separate species).
 - Why drug use by Olympic athletes should be monitored more strictly.
 - Topics of capital punishment, abortion, gun control, marijuana legalization, welfare, and issues of faith are discouraged. If you really want to choose one of these topics, you must be researching it from a fresh perspective, and it *must* be discussed with the professor before any research begins. Papers turned in on these topics without prior approval *will not be graded*.
- Purpose: To bring together all the skills learned through the course into a medium applicable to papers that will be required for other college courses, and to familiarize students with the process of college research and argumentation. The goal of this paper is to prepare students for the type of research projects that they are likely to encounter in other college courses (and in the job setting).
- Requirements: Seven pages minimum. The audience addressed should be academic and in the field likely to be interested in the type of research. Voice, style, and form will vary according to audience. Extensive research, appropriate citations, and a bibliography are necessary. Citations should be limited to no more than three per page (unless absolutely relevant). The thoughts and opinions expressed in the paper should be those of the student and not those of the sources.
 - Topic and Question: The topic that the student plans to research and a question that will help guide the research will need to be approved by the instructor in order to ensure that the topic is appropriate to the assignment and that adequate research can be found. **DUE 3/27** (The day of proposal conferences).
 - Annotated Bibliography: A bibliography of various texts that the student has researched and read will be required. Each entry must be accompanied by a

short summary of the text and its relevance to the issue. A minimum of eight sources is required for the annotated bibliography, more sources are encouraged (although all these do not necessarily need to be used in the actual paper). A minimum of two sources must be scholarly journals and one must be an Internet source. Please note that no research project will be graded without first turning in an annotated bibliography. **DUE 4/8.**

- Peer Review and Instructor Draft: A completed draft, including in-text citations and a bibliography, will be required for peer review and instructor comments. **DUE 4/17.**

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