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Research Paper
English 201

You have written an issue paper that asked you to explain a popular “issue” without inserting your own opinion and that included library and web research. For this final paper, you are required to choose an issue, describe in detail the various sides of the issue, choose a position, define your position, research the various sides of the issue and respond thoughtfully to critics of your position on the issue. In short, you should use the skills you have learned while writing the issue paper to construct a formal research paper that illustrates your ability to do research, explains in writing difficult material to an audience, and considers the rhetorical constraints that limit your topic. In this paper, indeed, you are expected to have an opinion. Again, however, you want to limit your use of first-person and second person (unless it is for an introduction or conclusion or some other rhetorical effect).

There are 2 major components to your research essay: the rough draft, and your final research paper. The research plan/outline and annotated bibliography assignment were designed to get you started on this project. At this point, I am hopeful that your annotated bibliography can serve at least in part for your works cited page. However, please remember that only works you cite in the paper should be included on the works cited page. Below is a possible organizational structure (though there are other ways to organize a paper of this nature). Be sure your topic is arguable (has various sides). If you are uncertain, please ask.

Introduction

Begin with an opening that grabs the reader (a hypothetical story, staggering statistic, for example). In this introduction be sure the reader knows your topic, knows the various sides of the issue/topic, and knows your stance/position. This may be one paragraph or more than two; this depends on your topic and approach. I suspect about a page to page and a half would work for this introduction. You may also include why this topic is important, its impact on you on others, or on the general population.

Body

Be sure you have transitioned from your introduction. Now, explain the issue and topic at hand. Spend more time detailing the issue, who is involved (organizations, people, objects, children, the earth, money/economics, etc. In short, describe who has a stake in this issue and why.) Explain the positions the various sides take on the issue and why they adopt that position. Once you do that, you should be sure to insert your own position and refute the opposing sides and defend your position with ethical research/sources. The issue maybe emotional and you may address that fact, of course. However, you want to explain logically why your position is best in this case. The audience will not take your word for it; you must explain using good sources why you are correct. You also want to make sure you acknowledge those who disagree with you and why they disagree with you. In some cases, sources/research will state why they disagree

with you, but in other cases it may be up to you, the researcher, to draw logical conclusions as to why they disagree with you. In short, what are the reasons behind their positions and what are the reasons behind your position/s? This will use much of your eight pages.

Conclusion

The conclusion is not just a restatement of the introduction. The conclusion reminds readers of the issue and the sides, but also reminds readers of your position and why they should agree with you. The conclusion and introduction are good places to insert emotional appeals. Remind the readers what they gain or lose by siding with you, and what they may lose if they side with the opposing positions. Like the introduction, about a page or page and a half would suffice here; however, this all depends on your approach, but I can say that one small paragraph for the conclusion will not suffice.

The details

Like all the work we've done in this semester, you should follow directions and keep to MLA format. Be sure that you submit your rough draft when due and make sure that the rough draft is no less than 5 pages. All due dates are on our schedule or Blackboard learning modules, depending on how you are taking this course. Please plan ahead and use the research plan/outline and annotated bibliography to help you. That assignment was designed to get you started on this research paper. Allow me to stress that you need proper headers and works cited. Also, please do not "drop-quote" in your essay. A drop-quote is when one begins a sentence with a quotation mark and ends a sentence with a quotation mark without any introduction. "This is an example of a drop-quote." Dr. Atkins says, "one should not drop-quote in his/her paper" (243). In the last sentence, I introduced the quote. In short, introduce your quotes. Also, remember to block quote quotes that are longer than four typed lines (not four sentences). Use your textbook and use the MLA citation powerpoint that is included on Blackboard to help you with citations, etc. Please email if you have troubles or questions.

- Be sure to include at least six ethical/reputable sources
- Eight pages in length (excluding works cited—this means at least eight pages of text and one page for the works cited—approximately nine pages)

Grading Rubric

Submitted on time in Blackboard (should be one document with page break in between)	1/3 of letter
Format that we can open (document should be named "yourlastname.doc")	Not fun—please do not do this to us
New topic (may not use same topic as issue essay)	1/3 letter
Must be no less than eight pages (do not go over 10 pages or lose the 1/3 letter as well)	1/3 letter
Writer did not take a clear position on the issue	1/3 letter
Must have at least six good sources	1/3 letter
Bad use of sources (the source or quotation does not work with the example used). More	1/3

than two of these instances	
More than two drop-quotes	1/3 letter
More than four Typos and/or misused words	1/3 letter
Did not block quote a quotation that is more than four typed lines	1/3 letter (depends on nature of issue here)
Poor writing, bad logic, sentence structure	1/3 letter
Works Cited (no more than three citation mistakes—includes in-text-parenthetical citations)	1/3 letter
Plagiarism or cheating (yes, we have technologies to analyze essays and sources)	Failure of assignment (at minimum)
Did not peer edit partner's rough draft properly	1/3 letter
	A 1/3 letter means that if you were to make a B+ but lose 1/3 of a letter grade, your final grade would be a B. Many of these are just simple directions and instructions. Please follow them.