**Researched Argument**

**Objective/Goal:**Write a 7-9 page research paper that accomplishes the following:

* Provides a claim (thesis) that is debatable, relevant, and arguable by:  
  1) convincing others that the writer’s stance or position on a subject is reasonable  
  2) influencing the way the audience thinks about a subject
* Invites the audience to challenge their point of view **and**/**or** to take some sort of action in lieu of the writer’s claim.
  + **Challenge a view through evidence, counterarguments, and rebuttals.\***
  + Suggest a course of action by advocating for a specific, realistic, and concrete course of action in the thesis claim (ex: proving that climate change exists is not enough; argue for ways to solve the problem).
* Considers and applies the rhetorical strategies we have studied and discussed throughout the course.
* Develops support for the claim with logical evidence that is rooted in research rather than personal opinion.

**\*This should be part of your argument structure regardless, as challenging a point of view is not only strong rhetoric and inherent of an argumentative thesis claim, but what separates an argument essay from a purely expository essay.**

**Audience:**   
Direct your argument at the audience that aligns with your purpose. For example, if you are writing about climate change consequences, your audience could include the general public, environmentalists, legislators. Make sure that your writing and tone are professional and academically-driven, void of “I”, “you”, and other personal-writing phrases.

**Specifics:**

* The essay will be double-spaced and typed in 12-point font; page numbers will appear in the upper right-hand corner. MLA essay formatting is expected.
* Correct MLA format is required for in-text citations and Works Cited page(s). See our texts or the [Purdue Owl website](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/) for additional help.
* Essay must be at least seven (7) pages (must reach halfway down on page seven), and no more than nine (9) full pages in length. **This excludes the Works Cited page(s).**
* A minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of fifteen (15) sources will be used in the essay.
  + At least **six** of your sources must come from an online database (Ebscohost, jstor, etc.) through the Library, and no more than **three** sources from the open web (.com) may be used.
  + Other sources include books, films, and substantive magazines/newspapers.
* All content taken from sources, and that is not common knowledge, needs to be cited within the research paper.
* Students will devote part of the text to *acknowledging* and *refuting* oppositional points of view.

**Deadlines:**

* Saturday of Week 4: Topic Proposal
* Wednesday of Week 5: Full Outline
* Saturday of Week 5: Rough Draft (4.5 pages for full credit)
* Wednesday of Week 6: Peer Reviews
* Saturday of Week 6: Final Draft (**no submissions accepted after Monday, July 4th, at 11:59pm; late penalty applies.)**

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| **Criterion** | **Beginning  (Less than 50% of criterion met)** | **Meeting  (70% of criterion met)** | **Exceeding (100% of criterion met)** |
| **Claim + Critical Thinking  (15 pts)** |  | Writing is consistently academic and scholarly (3 pts).  Essay shows continual learning which is driven by the desire to discover (3 pts).  Depth of argument shows a curious research approach (either through the creativity of the claim or use of support) (3 pts). Presents a strong claim that is debatable, relevant, and arguable (6 pts). |  |
| **Support + Evidence through**  **Research**  **(40 pts; 10 pts each)** |  | Develops supporting detail and/or evidence rooted in logic. Includes more specific, concrete evidence (or details) than the writer’s opinion or general (abstract) commentary.  Organization of essay is clear and coherent, with all parts distinguishable: introduction, body, conclusion.   Thorough research of this topic is evident because of the credibility of the source, how it is used in the overall debate, and the way the writer incorporates the material into their essay.  Research bolsters the writer’s stance, allowing outside sources to enhance rather than replace the writer’s thoughts. |  |
| **Counter argument + Rebuttal**  **(20 pts; 10 pts each)** |  | Writer uses sources from both sides of debate, to present the best argument possible.  Writes from an informed perspective by looking at multiple sides of an issue before taking a stance and/or keeps other’s opinions and beliefs in mind before making general statements or claims. |  |
| **Writer’s Rhetoric**  **(10 pts; 5 pts each)** |  | Clear purpose for writing, presented in the introduction, which is maintained throughout the essay.  Demonstrates that the writer has awareness of addressing a real and specific audience through tone and use of ethos. |  |
| **Presentation + Language**  **(15 pts; 5 pts each)** |  | Follows guidelines for Standard English grammar and punctuation, and as a result, the essay has fewer than **two errors per page**.   Meets MLA guidelines and essay requirements for length and format.  Works Cited page is complete and accurate according to MLA format + essay guidelines; in-text citations are present and accurate. Each one links to a source on the Works Cited page. |  |