

Major Writing Assignment 4 ~ Research Position Paper **English 1102**

Course objectives met:

- Use argumentative strategies and genres in order to engage various audiences.
- In order to be an ethical researcher and practice academic honesty, you will learn to integrate others' ideas with your own and properly document all sources.
- You will learn grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions appropriate to rhetorical situations and audience constraints

For the research paper, you need to take a position on the topic you chose and researched with your group. You will clearly explain and argue your developed opinions and back them up with information from carefully researched academic sources. You are required to address the counter-argument for the position you take on the topic, and explain how you would overcome any objections to defend your opinion (as in a debate).

As a group, you will work together to select a topic that evokes strong opinions. In some way, it should seem relevant to you and society as a whole. Stay away from over-discussed topics such as legalizing marijuana or gun control, or topics about which some opinions are likely to be based on religion or deeply held values, such as abortion, capital punishment, etc. Remember, the point is to form an opinion based on the research we do for this class. We will brainstorm as a class to find appropriate topics from which your group will choose. You will collaborate on the research portion of the assignment, but write your own annotations to the ten sources you decide upon with your group (see Annotated Bibliography assignment sheet), and you will write your own paper based on your individual opinion, backed up by information obtained from your sources.

Other Content Requirements

- Academic tone
- Introductory paragraph that includes a thesis statement providing your stance and three supporting points at the end
- The body of the paper will develop and support your thesis statement
- You will give a final solid conclusion in your essay's last paragraph which reinforces your argument and gives a final statement reiterating your views on the topic, while not introducing new information

Research and Formatting Requirements

- Minimum of 1800 words, PLUS Works Cited page.
- You must use five or more **academic** sources from your annotated bibliography (you will list them in a **Works Cited page**).
- Use at least one strategically placed direct quote or paraphrase in each paragraph, except for the introduction and conclusion. Use an approximately equal number of direct quotes and paraphrases. As we discussed, no more than 10% of your paper should be direct quotes, and direct quotes and paraphrases together should make up no more than 15% of your paper.
- Correctly use MLA conventions for in-text citations and Works Cited page.
- Paper will be double-spaced throughout, with 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font.

Thesis and Outline: Due Tues, April 11th. You will submit only one copy to the D2L dropbox labeled “MA4 Thesis and Outline” before 11:59 am. You must both bring paper copy to class and submit to D2L to get credit. You will also meet in your groups to discuss pros, cons, and strategize that day.

1st Rough Draft: Due Thursday, April 13th. Bring one paper copy to class (minimum 1000 words), and put one copy in D2L dropbox labeled “MA4 1st Rough Draft” before 11:59 am. You must both bring paper copy to class and submit to D2L to get credit.

2nd Rough Draft: Due Tues. April 18th: Bring one paper copy to class (minimum 1400 words), and put one copy in D2L dropbox labeled “MA4 2nd Rough Draft” before 11:59 am. You must both bring paper copy to class and submit to D2L to get credit.

Final Draft: Thurs. April 27th by 11:59 pm in the D2L dropbox

Oral Presentations: Debates will take place the last day of class, April 20th. Worth 20% of MA4 Grade.