

## Paper 4: Research Project

Eng-W131-40

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.
  - Examples of Appropriate Research Topics:
    - Why the US attacks on Afghanistan were effective (or ineffective) in combating terrorism.
    - Why marijuana should be legal (or illegal).
    - Why Germany invading Russia in the summer was the turning point in WWII.
    - Why Internet sharing sights (such as Napster) should be legal (or illegal).
    - Why the Viet Nam war was unnecessary (or justifiable).
    - Why Neanderthals were actually a form of Homo Sapiens (or a separate species).
    - Topics of capital punishment, abortion, gun control, and welfare 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.
- Purpose: To bring together all the skills learned in 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: Six to ten page 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 10/31.
  - Annotated Bibliography: A bibliography of various texts that the student has read and researched will be required. Each entry must be accompanied by a short summary of the text. A minimum of six sources is required in the annotated bibliography, more is 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. DUE 11/14.

- 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 11/26.

Ryan Shepherd RPShep@yahoo.com