

Paper 3: Researched Project

English W131

Instructor: Ryan P. Shepherd

Part 1: The Paper

- **Assignment:**
 - Thoroughly analyze an issue of your choosing, arguing from a certain perspective. The paper should:
 - Provide a well-supported stance on a controversial issue. The issue may be political, historical, moral, or otherwise.
 - Take a position on an interpretation of facts or claims.
 - Back up all claims with sound reasoning, appropriate evidence, and substantial research.
 - Take into account what those *opposed* to your position might say.
 - Use appropriate quotations, paraphrases, and summaries to help support the point-of-view expressed in the paper.
 - Properly cite all outside material.
 - All arguments in the paper should be *your own* and not those expressed in your research. Use the research to help support *your own* points, not as the points themselves. I'm interested in *your* perspective, not in that of other authors; if I wanted their perspective, I could read their text.
 - Topic selection should be specific enough to cover fully in the page limit. For example, appropriate topics would include:
 - Advertisements during the Super Bowl are over-priced and increasingly sexist.
 - The United States should have intervened in the former Yugoslavia to halt genocide.
 - Space exploration is very important, but Mars is not the only priority in the Solar System; other planets may yield information as scientifically useful as that found on Mars.
 - Rights to personal privacy are jeopardized by the increasing prevalence of stricter security measures.
 - Inappropriate topics include:
 - Capital punishment, abortion, gun control, marijuana legalization, and welfare. These topics are much too broad, far too general, and simply overdone. If you have a specific area of interest *and* a unique perspective on one of these issues, the topic may be considered.
 - Issues of faith. If the topic requires that the reader accept a certain religious doctrine or text, academic argument and research may prove extremely difficult. Over-reliance on *any* single text, religious or not, makes for a bad paper.
 - Students are encouraged to select topics on which their opinions have not yet formed or may be changed by their research.

- **Purpose:** To familiarize students with the type of argumentative research papers that they will be likely to encounter later in their academic careers. In addition, this project attempts to familiarize students with avenues of research needed for those papers, documentation formats, academic argumentation, and organization of longer papers.
- **Requirements:**
 - SIX to TEN typed pages formatted according the guidelines of the syllabus.
 - The audience for this piece is people studying in the discipline likely to deal with the issue. Voice, tone, and style should be formal, academic, and meeting with the conventions of that discipline.
 - While ten sources are required for the annotated bibliography, how many sources are used in the paper itself is up to the student. Students are encouraged to use a variety of sources and not rely on two or three; however, they do not need to use every source and may use sources found since completion of the annotated bibliography.
 - All papers must have appropriate citations and a “works cited” or “references” page (not included in page length).
- **Grading Criteria:**
 - Appropriate, well-formed arguments with substantial support.
 - Clear development of argument toward a main goal.
 - A clear thesis that is supported by the accompanying text.
 - Appropriate space given to counter-arguments.
 - Use of outside evidence to support the main argument.
 - Correct and appropriate quotation, paraphrase, and summary.
 - Correct in-text and bibliographic citation.
 - Academic authority established through clear knowledge of the subject being discussed.
 - Clear and meaningful organization of main points.

Parts 2-4: Short Additional Assignments

- **The Research Proposal:**
 - Early in the research process, students will be expected to write a research proposal of 250 words or greater. This proposal should:
 - Detail the *exact* topic that the student is planning on researching.
 - Provide a working thesis statement.
 - Provide a working research question.
 - Detail a working research plan.
 - Provide a brief explanation of what the writer hopes to accomplish with this piece.
 - Explain the significance of the topic to the writer.

- **The Annotated Bibliography:**
 - An annotated bibliography will be required after the student has had significant time to research his or her topic. The annotated bibliography should include:
 - A minimum of ten different sources.
 - At least three scholarly journal articles.
 - At least one book article.
 - At least one *valid* internet source.
 - An interview (optional but encouraged)

NOTE: If the above sources cannot be found for your topic (for example, if the topic is very new), you must meet with me BEFORE the due date of the annotated bibliography to discuss alternate requirements.
 - Each source should have an annotation including the following:
 - A proper end note citation in the style of the student's choosing, normally MLA or APA.
 - A brief (one to two sentence) summary of the materials.
 - A brief (one to two sentence) explanation of how these materials may be used in the paper.
- **The Rhetorical Analysis:**
 - Late in the writing process, students will be required to complete a rhetorical analysis of 500 words or greater.
 - The rhetorical analysis will focus on *one* of the ten sources included in the annotated bibliography.
 - The rhetorical analysis will break down *why* and author wrote what he wrote. This analysis *should not contain any summary of the article.*
 - A good rhetorical analysis will include:
 - An analysis of the writer's purpose for writing this piece.
 - An analysis of the writer's intended audience.
 - An evaluation of the writer's facts, claims, and evidence.
 - An analysis of the writer's use of language.
- **Due Dates:**
 - **March 16:** Research Proposal
 - **March 23:** Rhetorical Analysis
 - **March 25:** Annotated Bibliography
 - **April 1:** First Draft for Instructor Commentary
 - **April 15:** Second Draft for Peer Review.
 - Final draft due in portfolio.