

## Research Paper Assignment

**Prompt:** Choose a topic in which you are interested, gather research on that topic, and then narrow your topic down into one specific argument. Turn this argument into a clear, concise thesis with three prongs, and write an essay presenting this argument, using your research to support the argument and to address counter-arguments.

### Assignment Requirements:

1. Essay must be written in academic essay style, utilizing a formal third person point-of-view.
2. Essay must have a main idea or thesis with 3-prongs, and this thesis should be provided in the introduction as a way of forecasting the organization for the essay.
3. Essay must include an Annotated Bibliography (see below) with a MINIMUM of 10 sources. A MINIMUM of 5 of these sources must actually be used and cited in your paper.
4. Essay must be in MLA format, and all sources must be properly cited both with in-text parenthetical citations and in a Works Cited page.
5. Essay must use ALL 3 RHETORICAL DEVICES (ethos, pathos, logos). Use each device at least once, but you may use them more than once if desired. These rhetorical devices should blend in seamlessly with your essay and should not feel forced; they should function effectively to persuade the reader to buy in to your argument.
6. Essay should be a MINIMUM 5 paragraphs long (but may be more if appropriate), and should meet or exceed all requirements on Rubric. This will include an intro, body paragraphs (minimum of 3), and a conclusion.

### Annotated Bibliography Requirements:

This essay assignment will utilize an Annotated Bibliography rather than a Works Cited page. This Annotated Bibliography should:

1. Include ALL sources you referenced in the process of researching for this essay (not just the ones you end up citing in the paper).
2. Be formatted in proper MLA citation format and have sources placed in alphabetical order with hanging indents.
3. Include a MINIMUM of 10 sources.
4. Include an annotation beneath each citation (minimum 4-5 sentences of annotation) which includes:
  - a. A summary of the source
  - b. An analysis of the source (Who/what is the source? Where does the source get its info? Is it credible? Does the source have valid experience in the subject area or field?)
  - c. An evaluation of the source (Did you find this source useful for your paper? Why or why not?)

### Due Dates:

**Week 1:** Thesis due. Meet with instructor in class. **Date due:**

**Week 4:** Graded Rough Drafts will be returned. **Date due:**

**Week 2:** Annotated Bibliography due. **Date due:**

**Week 5:** Final Draft (with revised Annotated Bibliography) due. **Date due:**

**Week 3:** Rough Draft due. **Date due:**

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