

ESSAY #3: Supported Argument

Length: 1000-1250 words**Due:** 26 JULY 2018 by 11:59PM EASTERN TIME (NO EXTENSIONS ON ESSAY 3)**Submission Method:** upload to iCollege submission folder**File Format:** .doc or .docx ONLY**File Name:** LASTNAME_E3**100 points possible**

Research scares many of us, as does the name “Research Paper.” Our final paper in the class is called a “Supported Argument.” It is similar to a formal research paper and includes your own good ideas supported with primary and/or secondary research. The thought of putting our work into part of the “real” academic conversation can be intimidating, but it should not be. As long as we support our argument through logic and solid research, what we write is as good as what anyone else writes. I have asked you to pick your own topic; it should be the same topic you previously turned in a research proposal for.

You have already written a Research Proposal that introduces your topic and your particular perspective on it, provides a tentative thesis for your supported argument, and lists your research strategy for finding credible sources to support your claims. Engaging in your secondary research well before the due date will help ensure that your final paper reflects all your skills, not a rushed process.

The second aspect of this project will be the paper, which will be 1000-1250 words with an additional MLA formatted Works Cited page that includes **at least three secondary sources**. I want you to use sources well, not just grab something from the abstract and run with it (I’ll be checking to make sure you don’t do this, by the way), so I am asking you to use three sources, rather than the more commonly asked for five to ten for a formal research paper. Our goal is to use the best available research well.

So, what is the supported paper, anyway? Simply put, it is your argument (supported with secondary sources or a mixture of secondary and primary sources). Do not make the mistake of letting the sources guide you—*they support you*, not the other way around.

Skillfully integrating research is the challenge of the paper and there is no “one right way” to advise you. Generally, I think it works best to come up with a research question and then look at the scholarship available to find compatible (or opposing) opinions. It is rare that you will find a source that exactly matches the question you have for your research. In fact, it is best not to find such a source, because it would just be echoing what you have to argue. However, if you have an idea of the topic you would like to focus on, looking at the scholarship can also lead to your research question. You may find an article you would like to amplify or argue against in those cases. However you come to your research question, it is imperative that you control the support, rather than letting it control you. That means integrating it fully into your paper, which we will discuss in class.

There are two metaphors that I like to use for integrating research. First is the sandwich method. A quote, whether it is from a primary or secondary source, needs to be sandwiched between your commentary. Generally, a signal phrase is used to introduce the quote (you can do a Google search for signal phrases, if you have forgotten them from the class lecture). After the quote, you need to

explain why you used it. This is the most common mistake students make in supported papers—they leave the quote to do its own explaining. You need to explain what work the quote is doing in your paragraph. The second is the show-and-tell method. Always consider that you must show that a quote is coming by using a signal phrase and then tell why you have used it in your explanation.

Often, your thesis statement will not be fully developed until you finish your supported paper. Be sure that the thesis you began with still fits the argument you ended up making—it's far better to revise your thesis than to let it not describe your argument. The most important aspect of your thesis is that you make a debatable claim. Don't state the obvious and think that is argumentative rhetoric. It's not. Give yourself time to write this—don't wait until the night before. It won't end well.

FOR THIS ESSAY, I am asking that you write in formal academic English:

- No contractions
- No first or second person perspective (I, me, my, you, your, we, our, etc.—see handout)
- No informal slang or colloquialisms
- Use a scholarly tone and style
- No dropped quotes; No more than one block quote

REQUIREMENTS:

- A well-researched, academic argument that adds a new perspective to the existing conversation about your topic
- A clear thesis statement that advances a specific, substantial, *arguable* point
- **Strong supporting evidence from your secondary research**
- In-text citation of at least **THREE** different secondary sources
- A careful evaluation of relevant counterpoints
- A coherent organizational structure that enhances the argument and effectively portrays the research
- An identifiable audience
- A clear ethos
- 1000-1250 words (NOT including Works Cited Page), double-spaced pages
- Works Cited page (MLA 8th edition)
- Meticulous proofreading and proper formatting

Learning Outcomes: 1-9

Draft due *in class* for peer-review **THU 19 JULY 2018**

FINAL DRAFT DUE **26 JULY 2018 by 11:59PM (NO EXTENSIONS)**

EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR RESEARCH PAPER

| | Absent/Beginning (1) | Developing (2) | Competent/Adequate (3) | Advanced/Sophisticated (4) |
|--|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thesis is specific, arguable, addresses the topic, and is situated correctly | | | | |
| Contains (5) Elements of an essay (see p. 58 of <i>GTFYW</i>) | | | | |
| Clearly establishes your position in relation to the evidence you use | | | | |
| Essay has coherent organizational structure with topic sentences/paragraphs developed to support thesis | | | | |
| Essay displays a strong awareness of purpose and audience | | | | |
| Evidence is included and is compelling, credible, accurate, and current | | | | |
| Evidence from source material is integrated into the argument well and with proper citation; No dropped quotes | | | | |
| MLA 8 th ed. format is followed for essay, in-text citations, and Works Cited page | | | | |
| Grammar/ Mechanics (correctness and proofreading) | | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | Out of 36 |