



ENGL 101 Spring 2018

# Researched Argument

Due: Rough draft (04/02); Final draft (04/16)

## Overview

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**Description:** A researched argument is the kind of work in which the author presents an argument and backs it up with credible sources to persuade the audience. Your goal is to create a researched argument that not only demonstrates a interesting and meaningful social problem tied to your community, but provides a possible solution to that problem. The purposes of the assignment are to build your curiosity as a student researcher, and to connect your research with social issues in public spheres.

## Goals

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Use writing processes to generate, develop, share, revise, proofread and edit a researched argument.



Understand, evaluate, and integrate others' texts into your own writing with appropriate citations and avoid plagiarism.



Write a researched argument that shows genre awareness, rhetorical situations, structure, purpose, significant content, and audience awareness.



Critically Reflect on how to apply the genre knowledge of researched arguments to other writing situations, including your field of study.

## Project Description

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**Argument:** You will research a social issue in your community, collect data from community members using surveys or interviews, formulate an argument, and address counter-arguments to persuade your audience. This requires a careful evaluation, documentation, and synthesis of sources.

**References:** Your researched argument should include at least **5** sources, at least **2** out of which are academic sources. You may use Google Scholar, I-Search, and other research databases to search for sources related to your topic.

**Reflection:** After finishing the project, you will submit a **1-2** page reflection essay on your process of composing in this genre. You may use the following questions to guide your thinking as you reflect:

- What have you learned about the rhetorical/genre styles of researched arguments?
- What are your accomplishments/struggles while drafting and revising the argument?
- What peer feedback have you received and how did you address the feedback?
- How does this assignment build your critical thinking skills as a research writer?
- How will this writing assignment help you with assignments in your field of study?

## Length and Format

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Your researched argument should be **5-6 pages** (1500-1800 words, **not including** the title page and reference pages), double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, APA format. Reflection essays should be **1-2 pages** (300-600 words), following the same format.

It is a multiple-draft assignment. For the rough draft, upload 2 pages on D2L by **04/02**. For the final draft, upload a single word document (including the researched argument and reflection essay) on D2L by **04/16**.

## Writing Tips

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- You will provide a **thesis statement**, make a clear claim, and address counterarguments to persuade the audience.
- Your researched argument should be based on **solid research** and carefully curated sources.
- Refer to your **notecards on NoodleTools** and **sample essays on D2L** while drafting your paper. Use headings/subheadings and simple but memorable introductions and conclusions.
- Your audience for this researched argument includes your professor and other research writers. Be sure to make your argument easily **understandable and accessible** to the audience.
- Your audience will assume the authority and trustworthiness of your researched argument. In other words, you should consider using styles and voice that convey your authority as a writer, such as using academic language and a **third person, strong tone**.

## Grading Criteria

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Your researched argument will be graded on the following categories: (Total number of points: 25 pts.)

- **Argument:** Governed by a clear central idea or thesis, driven by clear topic sentences relevant to the thesis, and addressed objections/counterarguments. (20%/ 5 pts.)
- **Support and evidence:** Demonstrating the ability to analyze, paraphrase, and synthesize sources. Including data collected from community members (surveys or interviews). Including at least 5 sources (2 are academic) in your essay, and some synthesis of ideas from these sources. (20%/ 5 pts.)
- **Organization:** Organized in a logical fashion with topic sentences, transitions, headings/subheadings, introductions, conclusions and other organizational features (a title page, header, page numbers) to guide the reader. (20%/ 5 pts.)
- **Reflection:** Critically reflecting on the process of composing and revising a researched argument and on the application of the rhetorical knowledge to other writing situations. (20%/ 5 pts.)
- **Writer's Ethos:** Meeting the minimum length requirement. Using formal, academic language, and the APA citation format. It is carefully proofread and lacks errors (20%/ 5 pts.)

