

## EGL 102: ASSIGNMENT 3

### ARGUMENTATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY

**7-10 pages (Approximately 1750-2500 words)**

Writing the essay for the research project is a pretty straightforward process. Take an argumentative stand (choose a side), but look for the truth concerning your topic. You will need to examine the sources you have found and choose the best information available in those sources. Present that information in an honest manner, painting a complete picture of your topic, not one single point of view—**assume multiple points of view, not simply that there are two points of view**. The strength of the position you take must come from the validity of your argument. Avoid loading the argument to suit your needs by presenting the information in a slanted or unfair way. Write in a way that adds something new to the discussion concerning your topic—do not rehash worn out ideas. You are required to incorporate information from at least seven sources in the preparation of your paper. **Three of these sources must be from library databases or interviews with experts in the topic's field.**

Your research will be conducted by investigating information available from academic sources, including

- academic sources found through library databases, such as *Academic Search Complete* and *Credo Reference*
- personal interviews with individuals who are experts in your topic—**highly recommended early in your search for sources**
- **academic** videos and books which must be approved by me
- **approved** popular magazines, including *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report*, *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, and newspapers
- **no more than one book and one Internet source**—must be approved by me
- **primary sources**—**found on the final page of this assignment**
- **Do not use textbooks as sources.**

These sources will be presented in an **annotated** Works Cited that will accompany your essay, as described in class. This Works Cited will follow the example given in the models on my website, and **an essay presented without a Works Cited will receive a failing grade**. Also, information presented in your essay from these sources will be accompanied by appropriate in-text documentation.

Following the above procedure, write a 7-10 page essay—**anything short of five pages will receive an automatic grade of F, and anything 5-7 pages will be significantly reduced in grade.** Utilize MLA style as we have discussed in class and as is presented in *A Writer's Reference*. We will also discuss any other elements of MLA style you need for the completion of this assignment. However, it remains your responsibility to ask questions when you have them. For the purposes of this assignment, form is almost as important as content. You simply must get into the text book, reference reading assignments, and models to do well on this essay. For the purpose of this assignment, form is nearly equal to content in importance.

**BE CAREFUL TO AVOID PLAGIARISM—anyone caught intentionally plagiarizing will receive a failing semester grade.**

### *Process Folder*

As you gather your research materials, create a file in which you collect all process materials:

- notes (**All of you will take notes using 4x6" notecards as you read your sources.**)
- Copies of all sources used in your essay
- photocopies if you make them
- at least three drafts of Assignment 4 (peer draft, conference draft, final draft)
- a **detailed** cluster chart
- computer printouts of library searches if you make them
- a calendar that spans the period covering assignment 4 (You will receive instructions in class concerning its use.)
- other materials pertinent to the development of your body of information.

These materials will be turned in with assignment #4, and represent a crucial element in the acceptability of your research essay. **Assignment #4 will not be accepted without a well-developed process folder.** Include all additional research material you encounter while writing your paper. If you present an insufficient process folder in class on the due date, your paper will not be accepted. Remember—no sources older than the year 2012 unless I approve them. **It is your responsibility to inform me if you have problems with any area of this assignment.**

### **Searching for Sources**

- You will make a concerted effort to find reasonable, academic sources, which will be at least one full page in length.
- You will make a diligent search for opposing points of view.
- You will present those opposing views in a reasonable, respectful way.
- You will review the assignment sheet Assignment 4 to ensure that you are fulfilling all assigned requirements.

- While writing Assignment 4, you will continue to consider the need for additional sources.
- You will continue working on narrowing your topic.
- You will take notes as described in *A Writer's Reference* pages 71-81 as you read your sources.
- You will format your essay according to pages 59-60 and 462-464 of *A Writer's Reference*.
- You will read the sample research paper and follow the advice it provides—pages 465-470 of *A Writer's Reference*.
- Remember to include sufficient specific examples and number data to inform your reader.
- You will ask questions if you encounter problems you can't solve. While working in the library, ask the librarians if you need assistance. You won't be bothering them; it's what they do.

## DUE DATES

The **peer draft** is due at the beginning of class on **March 24, 2017**.

The **conference draft** will be discussed in voluntary conferences on the following dates: **April 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, and 17, 2017**. I will provide conference sign-up sheets for those students who choose to have a conference. We will not meet in class on conference dates that coincide with our regular class schedule, but this does not mean that this is play time for those students not conferencing with me. You will need to continue working on your own if you want sufficient time to write an adequate essay. Also, students who choose to not attend a conference must submit a second draft no later than **April 10, 2017**.

Return to class on **April 19, 2017**.

The **final draft** is due at the beginning of class on **April 21, 2017**.

**Download Assignment 4 by April 19, 2017 and bring it to class on April 21, 2017.**

**Re-read this assignment sheet and the Essay Submission Procedure handout multiple times as you work on this essay.**

**\*PRIMARY SOURCES****Definition:**

Primary sources are original materials. They are from the time period involved and have not been filtered through interpretation or evaluation. Primary sources are original materials on which other research is based. They are usually the first formal appearance of results in physical, print or electronic format. They present original thinking, report a discovery, or share new information.

**Examples include:**

- Artifacts (e.g. coins, plant specimens, fossils, furniture, tools, clothing, all from the time under study);
- Audio recordings (e.g. radio programs);
- Diaries;
- Internet communications on email;
- Interviews;
- Journal articles published in peer-reviewed publications;
- Letters;
- Newspaper articles written at the time;
- Original Documents (i.e. birth certificate, will, marriage license, trial transcript);
- Patents;
- Photographs;
- Proceedings of meetings, conferences and symposia;
- Records of organizations, government agencies (e.g. annual report, treaty, constitution, government document);
- Speeches;
- Survey Research (e.g., market surveys, public opinion polls);
- Video recordings (e.g. television programs);
- Works of art, architecture, literature, and music (e.g., paintings, sculptures, musical scores, buildings, novels, poems);
- Web site.

Source: University of Maryland Library