

Name _____

Argumentative Research Paper

Task: Write a 3 1/2-5 page **argumentative** research paper in MLA formatting. Your paper should take a stand on a **current** issue that is important to you. You do not have a lot of space to work with, so take on a small, specific aspect of an argument.

This is same type of writing that we have done all year: form a thesis, support it with examples, and tie everything back to the thesis. The difference is that on top of using literature, personal experience, or history, etc. for your examples, your evidence will also come from formal **research**. You will cite sources in the paper (with in text citations) as well as at the end in a "works cited" page.

This is the 3rd type of essay you need to be able to write for the AP exam.

Nuts & Bolts

- This paper will be a 30 point classwork grade and a 30 point homework grade.
- All work must be completed on a GoogleDoc so that I can check in on you whenever I have a chance.
- Your paper has to argue a point.
- Your paper should use a variety of sources.
- You will submit your final draft to turnitin.com

Goals

The goals of this paper are manifold. By the end of the paper, you should be able to:

- Establish ethos
- Write a clear, concise, **argumentative** thesis statement
- Use an organizational structure that borrows from either classical or Rogerian structures
- Use paragraphs in an extended paper
- Use multiple forms of evidence (emotional appeals, logical appeals, images, etc.)
- Introduce and discuss evidence
- Use MLA formatting
- Cite sources properly

I love teaching the research process and I can't wait to read your papers!

11 AP Argumentative Research Paper Rubric-

*****Papers with no argument (ie: reports) will earn no higher than a 70%*****

Traits and Points	5	4	3-5	2-1
Thesis	Clear and focused thesis statement. Includes both a topic and opinion. Uses advanced sentence structure/parallel structure.	Good thesis statement but I might have to skim ahead in the paper to figure out exactly what you would like to discuss. Includes both a topic and an opinion. Thesis may be not parallel. Sentence structure may be basic or a bit problematic.	Attempted to communicate a topic plus an opinion but is too generic to get a clear sense of the writer's point. Not contextualized.	Has only a topic or an opinion. Student does not clearly understand the purpose of a thesis.
Organization (macro & micro) x2	Macro The organization you chose for your paper (classic or Rogerian) supports your argument well. All paragraphs support your argument . Paragraph breaks are used appropriately . Essay is cohesive. Each body paragraph starts with an assertion and has evidence to support the assertion. Evidence discussed in order to show how it supports the assertion/overall argument No dropped quotes. Conclusion restates the thesis and ends with a closing thought. Answers the question "so what?"	Macro Your overall organization has a flaw or two. One or two paragraphs may be out of place. May need more paragraph breaks. Micro Introduction may be choppy. There's either too much or too little background, and/or thesis was a bit difficult to find or wordy. With a bit of conferencing, we could get this into really nice shape. Within paragraphs, you may be missing some of the parts we've been working on. May have some "dropped" quotations. Cohesion needs work. Conclusion wraps up the paper and reframes the argument.	Macro Organizational scheme hard to follow. Argument hard to follow. Hook, background, or thesis are in the rough stages. May not be developed enough or are missing altogether. Transitions between intro parts are choppy. Micro Paper has a lot of evidence cut and pasted into the paper without assertions/commentary. Paper may read like a report instead of an argument. Not cohesive. Conclusion restated thesis in exact words as the opening or thesis is hard to find/understand. Closing thought weak.	No structure apparent. Seems to ramble without connecting to thesis or overall purpose.
Rebuttal	Somewhere in the essay, the main argument of the opponent is addressed.	Rebuttal present but does not provide a strong counterclaim.	Writer does not recognize or clearly respond to the opponent's main argument . May be	Rebuttal not present.

			implied.	
Data/Evidence (x2)	Evidence spot-on. Supports your argument. You used at least 1 database and a variety of otherwise credible sources. Total of 4-7 high quality sources. Your evidence was a mix of logic /facts (logos) and also included appeals to pathos (emotions). Sometimes these overlapped.	Evidence was relevant to paper but could be more specific or focused in some spots. May have some weak sources or did not use enough of a variety of sources.	Evidence was not always focused on supporting your argument. May have been weak evidence. May have used too many poor sources.	Evidence missing or not relevant to argument. Completely reliant on poor sources.
Small Stuff. Ethos, Style, Wordiness , Active verbs	Established ethos through powerful and passionate yet balanced tone. Academic register . Varied sentences. Active verbs used to introduce evidence.	May be missing one of the elements in first column.	Missing 2-3 elements.	Unprofessional or immature tone/voice.
MLA formatting and Citations	Guidelines for MLA formatting followed to a "T" (heading, headers, double spacing, in-text citations, works cited page). You did a great job citing your sources and Turnitin.com says "you are awesome and gave credit to all thoughts that were not yours."	Your MLA formatting was pretty good but not perfect. Turnitin.com satisfied.	Where in the world is your MLA formatting? Turnitin.com satisfied.	Everything else may be okay, but turnitin.com was not happy. Some chunks of paper not credited properly and are therefore plagiarized. Please see me to talk about this.
Grammar & Usage (other than MLA formatting)	Less than 5 grammatical or word usage errors .	5-10 grammatical or word usage errors.	10-15 grammatical or word usage errors.	More than 15 grammar or word usage errors.

_____/45

For late papers:

Submission date: _____

Days late: _____ (1 letter grade/day)

Final Score: _____