

## Research Paper: Solving a Problem in Your Community

**DIRECTIONS:** For this assignment you will write a **3-4 page proposal argument** in which you will thoroughly explain **one problem** associated with a community (that you are a part of). You will propose **one clear and feasible solution** to this problem and try to convince your audience to implement your solution by explaining its benefits and responding to possible objections (**one counterargument**). You will target the audience of your choice (administration, teachers, local organization, etc. - think, *who will make this solution happen?*). To defend your argument you will also create a poster or video to accompany your project and will present during an informational fair on February 26th and 27th during conference.

### SPECIFICS:

- The essay must use APA style, include a cover page, and include a references page with all research included in it.
- The essay must be three-four pages of written content (excluding the cover and references pages).
- The essay must include the following paragraphs: introduction that details the problem (can be two paragraphs), solution paragraph, counterargument and rebuttal paragraph, and conclusion paragraph (at least five paragraphs total).
- The essay must include at least three academic sources.
- All quotes must be followed by in-text citations, for example: (Bradbury, 1953, p.54).

### Writing Process Schedule

| Writing Assignment                                                                                | Due Date                   | Completed On Time on Turnitin.Com?                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Determine Problem (Topic)                                                                         | By Fri. 1/10               | <i>Not worth points - selected in class.<br/>This is your starting point!</i> |
| Annotated Bibliography: Two sources on the problem.                                               | Sat. 1/18                  | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Annotated Bibliography: Select a solution and include one source on the selected solution.        | Sat. 1/25                  | 10 possible points                                                            |
| First-hand research (survey or observation results) paragraph                                     | Sat. 2/1                   | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Annotated Bibliography: Find a counterargument and include a source that addresses that argument. | Sat. 2/8                   | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Intro/ Solution Paragraphs                                                                        | Fri. 2/14<br>(R&R Weekend) | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Counter Argument and Conclusion Paragraphs                                                        | Sat. 2/22                  | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Infographic poster or video                                                                       | Tues., 2/25                | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Final Draft                                                                                       | Sat. 3/1                   | 10 possible points                                                            |
| Process Work Total                                                                                | Total Points               | /80 (entered each week in the "essay" category of the gradebook.              |

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## **Outline and Explanation of Each Weekly Assignment**

### **Week 1: Class Discussion & Determine Topic (Problem)**

In class, we will break into groups and discuss possible problems in our communities. You will need to determine what problem you want to discuss for this project and finalize that topic by Friday, January 10th in class.

### **Week 2: Annotated Bibliography: Two sources on the problem.**

Research solutions to solve your selected problem. Then, find two reputable sources on the problem (demonstration of research will take place during the block day of week 2 of the semester). For each source you found, create an annotated bibliography that includes the APA citation for the source and a 100-word paragraph that summarizes the article, notes its strengths and weaknesses, and indicates how it will be used to support your argument. Submit this in a single document to Turnitin.com.

### **Week 3: Annotated Bibliography: Select a solution and include one source on the selected solution.**

Select a solution to your problem (you may need to research multiple). Using an academic search engine, find one source that has been peer reviewed. Create an annotated bibliography that includes the APA citation for the source and a 100 word paragraph that summarizes the article, notes its strengths and weaknesses, and indicates how it will be used to support your argument. Submit in a single document to Turnitin.com.

### **Week 4: First-Hand Research**

Plan and conduct your own research into the issue. This can be done through survey (via a hand out or Google Forms) or observation (if you have an alternative, please talk to me). Submit the following to Turnitin.com: (1) your original survey (if you have one); (2) data/observations; (3) a 100-word paragraph that outlines your findings and how that will support your overall argument. Submit in a single document to Turnitin.com (if it isn't something that can be submitted to Turnitin.com, email it to me). Research Paper (Problem/Solution): First-Hand Research Paragraph due Feb. 1

### **Week 5: Annotated Bibliography: Find a counterargument and include a source that addresses that argument.**

Research a counterargument that disagrees with your solution or proposes an alternative solution. Find a source that outlines this opposing argument. In a 100 word paragraph, outline the opposing argument and explain how your solution would work better than the opposing solution. Then, for the source, create an annotated bibliography that includes the APA citation for the source and a 100 word paragraph that summarizes the article, notes its strengths and weaknesses, and indicates how it will be used in your paper. Submit in a single document to Turnitin.com.

### **Week 6: Intro/Problem and Solution Paragraphs**

Using the research you have gathered and the writing you have already submitted, merge your information and write a multi-paragraph introduction that describes the community and problem, alludes to your solution, and provides a thesis. Then, write a multi-paragraph section that focuses on the possible solutions, with their pros and cons, as well as your proposed solution. Support with evidence and reasoning, try to convince your reader that your solution is the best solution. Please include appropriate APA in-text citations for all quotes and paraphrases. Submit in a single document to Turnitin.com.

### **Week 7: Counter Argument and Conclusion Paragraphs; Advocacy Ad/PSA**

Using the research you have gathered and the writing you have already submitted, merge/write a paragraph counter argument that addresses opposition, explain their position/alternative solution, and then outline why your solution is the best. Then, write a conclusion that emphasizes your overall goal and a call to action (what should your audience do now that they've read your paper). Submit in a single document to Turnitin.com.

### **Week 8: Infographic Poster or Video; Final Draft**

Create an infographic poster or PSA video that communicates your problem, your solution, and next steps for your project. This should be submitted to me hard copy or via email and should be ready to present during

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Conference time on 2/26 and 2/27. Revise and edit your rough draft from the past two weeks. Combine into a single document that you will submit to Turnitin.com with an APA Title Page and an APA Reference Page.

### **Essay Submission Checklist:**

#### **CONTENTS**

- ☐ Introductory Paragraphs that outline the community & problem
- ☐ Solution Paragraph(s) that detail the proposed solution and benefits
- ☐ Counterargument and rebuttal
- ☐ Conclusion Paragraph(s)
- ☐ Infographic or Video

#### **STYLE: MUST BE HIGHLIGHTED TO RECEIVE CREDIT**

- ☐ Sentence Opener: Subject
- ☐ Sentence Opener: Preposition
- ☐ Sentence Opener: -ly adverb

#### **Mechanics**

- ☐ Capitalization
- ☐ End marks and punctuation
- ☐ Spelling
- ☐ Complete sentences

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### Research Paper Rubric

|                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>20 Points<br/><i>Exceeds</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>15-19 Points<br/><i>Meets</i></b>                                                                                                   | <b>9-14 Points<br/><i>Approaches</i></b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>0-8 Points<br/><i>Falls Far Below</i></b>                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thesis:</b> An open, evaluative thesis that seeks to persuade its audience.                                                                                                     | A clear, open thesis evaluates a concept or argument; thesis is open enough to allow for elaboration throughout the paper.                                                                                                       | A clear, open thesis has a persuasive purpose; thesis allows for elaboration.                                                          | The thesis is clear but does not allow for much elaboration. There is an attempt at a persuasive purpose.                                                                         | The thesis isn't clear, doesn't allow for elaboration, and/or is not persuasive.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Arrangement:</b> Structure of essay builds logically and persuasively; essay clearly articulates the proposed problem, solution, benefits, counterargument, and call to action. | The arrangement of the essay is always proper (introduction, body, conclusion). The organization of the paragraphs is proper.                                                                                                    | The arrangement of the essay is usually proper (introduction, body, conclusion). The organization of the paragraphs is usually proper. | The arrangement of the essay is only sometimes proper (introduction, body, conclusion). The organization of the paragraphs is only sometimes proper. The organization is unclear. | The arrangement of the essay is unrecognizable. The organization of the paragraphs is unrecognizable. The organization is unclear and detracts from the understanding of the essay. |
| <b>Research:</b> At least three academic sources are well-selected and utilized in the content of the paper, integrated, and cited in APA format.                                  | At least three academic sources are well-selected and utilized in the content of the paper, integrated, and cited in APA format.                                                                                                 | There are two pieces of evidence that are well-selected but include minor errors with integration OR citations in APA format.          | There is only one piece of evidence OR the essay is lacking proper integrations and citations in APA format for two quotes.                                                       | The essay lacks a thorough attempt at including well-selected evidence from the text.                                                                                               |
| <b>Logic/Analysis:</b> Logic of the argument follows a formal structure, draws directly from selected evidence, and reasonably supports a student's thesis.                        | Analysis always follows a strong logical structure to incorporate the evidence and support the overall thesis.                                                                                                                   | Analysis follows a logical structure to incorporate the evidence and support the overall thesis.                                       | Analysis uses logic and incorporates evidence, but connection to overall thesis may not be clear.                                                                                 | Analysis is not logical AND/OR does not incorporate evidence.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Style:</b> Only 1-2 grammatical errors. At least three intentional uses of style.                                                                                               | No more than 1-2 types of grammatical errors in the essay. At least two intentional uses of style throughout the essay (highlighted), such as active voice, strong verbs, varied sentence structures, and/or parallel structure. | 3-5 types of grammatical errors but the paper is still readable. One intentional use of style.                                         | 6+ types of grammatical errors but the paper is still readable. One intentional use of style.                                                                                     | Poor grammar makes the essay nearly unreadable; no intentional use of style.                                                                                                        |
| <b>APA Formatting:</b> Only 1-2 minor errors for APA formatting (12-point, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins, title page, references page)                                  | Only 1-2 minor errors for APA formatting (12-point, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins, title page, references page)                                                                                                       | 3-5 errors with APA formatting.                                                                                                        | 6+ types of APA formatting errors.                                                                                                                                                | Little to no attempt for APA formatting.                                                                                                                                            |

Process Work Total: \_\_\_\_\_/80

Rubric: \_\_\_\_\_/120

Overall Score: \_\_\_\_\_/200