Argument of Fact Overview (revised Fall 2020)
Adv. Comp.
Dr. Jones

An argument of fact involves interpreting factual information. In other words, you'll present and analyze quoted and paraphrased evidence (facts) on your topic. Starting with evidence (quoted and paraphrased) from credible sources, you'll explain and analyze the information, making it clear to the reader. Serious factual arguments always have **consequences**, which is also similar to the "proposal" cell on your RQ worksheet. Ask yourself as you construct your thesis - what is the outcome, consequence, effect, and/or meaning of this research? Why do it? What can I contribute to this academic discussion?

An argument of fact is objective writing, in which you quote and paraphrase research to give a comprehensive, factual account of your topic. Knowledge of fact is the first step toward expertise. You cannot develop a thesis, or write *any* of this paper, until you've been thinking and researching.

Writing a thesis/claim

After you've spent some time in Academic Search Complete, you should be able to scratch out a tentative answer to your research question; this is the beginning of your thesis. The thesis, then, is a research-based, specific, and multi-part development of a hypothesis, an answer to your research question. Again, this can only be determined after you've conducted some research on your question.

Consider the thesis/claim as a compound-complex sentence consisting of multiple parts. For example, my thesis (built around the Eisenberg text) might look something like this:

> *Prominent and influential historians like Max Weber and, later, Perry Miller promoted and perpetuated a variant of the American origin story, steeped in easily disproved myths lauding the Puritan settlement of New England, and these historians, despite the fact that their work is over 80 years old, have assiduously infected our current political discourse concerning the primacy of the American "work ethic."*

Consider also that your thesis/claim should be written in proper parallel form. (We will discuss the "parts" of your thesis statement in class.)

The body of the paper will support your points with specific evidence (quoted and paraphrased, from research).

Argument of Fact-Notes on Structure

Think of the paper as having the traditional introduction-body-conclusion form (but not necessarily a five-paragraph essay form).

Your paper must be at least **EIGHT** typed, double-spaced pages not including the "Works Cited" **OR 2,500 - 3,500 words** not including the "Works Cited."

You must also adhere to MLA format for the entire paper, including the Works Cited. Your final product will consist of a formal research paper, including a formatted Works Cited page. The notes below will help you structure your paper.

Introduction

The introduction should be about two paragraphs in length and relatively general, providing "context." The

introduction also includes your thesis/claim. The context is an important feature of your argument, and you should take special care when developing this part of the essay. You want to *point* to a specific moment in history or a phenomena or idea or common ideal. The context of your essay is the groundwork for the essay --it is the reason you wanted to write *this* essay. (The *aeon.co* articles are often excellent examples of this aspect of academic writing.)

Body

The body is the majority of the paper. This is the part of the paper where you will utilize the research, quoting and paraphrasing the evidence that you have gathered. We will discuss the process of paraphrasing, quoting, and analyzing in the body of the paper. (Also, you may want to refer to "god is in the details" doc. for additional info. on integrating sources.)

The body of the paper will consist of quoted and paraphrased research *and* analysis of the research.

Keep the following in mind for the body of the paper:

- Structure the body logically. Organizing the information according to the order established in your thesis. (Remember the "color-coded" thesis examples.)
- Each body paragraph should start with a clear topic sentence, identifying the content of the paragraph.
- All paraphrased and quoted information must be cited, as required according to MLA documentation style.
- All sources MUST come via EBSCO - Academic Search Complete ~~(or Academic Search Premier)~~ - unless otherwise approved by Dr. Jones.
- The **required** number and type of *sources* (not # of quotations) is detailed in the chart below:

"expertise book" (book)	1
academic journals (journals)	4 (min) - 7
periodical (magazine) OR news (newspaper)	(no **more** than 2)
[another source or type of source approved by Dr. Jones]	(no **more** than 1)
MINIMUM TOTAL	**8**

- Paraphrased and quoted evidence should be well integrated into the paragraphs. (No floating quotations!)
- Paraphrased and quoted evidence should be well-supported with analysis.

Conclusion

The conclusion can imitate the introduction in length if you choose so--that is it is fine to have a multi-paragraph conclusion. As such, it should provide closure to the paper without repeating any information in the body of the paper. So, do NOT repeat your thesis/claim. Think of presenting a "course of action" in your conclusion, predicting the "state" of this topic in the future. As such, this can be more subjective, or opinionated. Your "new idea" or **the consequence** is "actionable" and included here.

RETIRED – COVID YEAR MODIFICATIONS
from Fall of 2020 & Spring of 2021
important process steps
The AoF "Check List"
(check Classroom for due dates)

- ❑ after beginning your "expertise book," add notes to the collaborative Author's Concerns padlet
- ❑ review and "track" these ideas as you read
- ❑ after your final contribution(s) to the AC padlet, use this handout to create a Research Question
- ❑ post your new RQ on the RQ padlet for your class period OR on Classroom (per Jones)
- ❑ create an Ebsco account and begin your first "three-box searches"
- ❑ file 8 – 12 .pdfs (*not* HTML copies) of relevant/legitimate scholarly articles in your Ebsco folder
- ❑ share a screenshot of your Ebsco folder with Dr. Jones
    - ❑ this is done as a Google Form, posted on Classroom
- ❑ make an individual folder on the AoF Share Drive and save (at least) 8 .pdfs to your folder on our Share Drive
    - ❑ use the print-to-.pdf function of Chrome, save to Downloads, upload to our Share Drive
    - ❑ you need **14 total articles** in your Share Drive folder for full credit on this project
- ❑ SKIM ALL OF YOUR ARTICLES and read *most* of two "core" articles (the point is to est. enough context to be able to write a competent thesis)
- ❑ review steps 1 – 4 & 9 (above) and these examples and write your AoF thesis
    - ❑ Dr. Jones will also provide video support of this step (see vid posted on Classroom of approx. 29 min.)
- ❑ post your completed thesis to Classroom (an Assignment in the Unit IV Folder)
- ❑ complete an outline of your essay (we will recycle the "Seven Sentence Outline")
    - ❑ Dr. Jones will not collect this, but you should complete it nonetheless for your own organization.
- ❑ draft the first 2 – 4 para. of your essay (CONTEXT)
    - ❑ here's an example of what the 2-para. intro. looks like
- ❑ draft the remaining para. of your essay (BODY + CONCLUSION/CONSEQUENCE)
    - ❑ as you are drafting you should review this handout (which is also referenced in the directions above)
- ❑ proof, edit, change, repeat :) … then submit your final essay to turnitin.com