

Research-Based Argument

15 pages (does not include bibliography)

Deadlines:

2/21-22	Research Proposal
4/11-12	Draft of Literature Review and Methods due on Canvas
4/20-21	Draft of Findings
5/8-9	Final Draft and Reflective Cover Letter

Research-Based Argument:

So often, we mistakenly believe that a research paper is merely a rote presentation of information, but if done right, research projects can be just the opposite: a chance to explore the questions that excite you, and to make your own contribution to a wider conversation about a topic that interests you.

Context:

Using outside sources, investigate a cultural, social, or political phenomenon inspired by the artist/art you selected from *The Curry Arts Journal*. What matters is that you construct a specific, focused argument that interweaves your own thoughts with outside research sources for a dynamic argument.

Crafting your Research-based Project:

You will need to find a **minimum of 10** outside sources in total and should use **six** in the body of your paper. Your sources should consist of peer reviewed journal articles, reputable periodicals, or full-length books that have a direct bearing on your topic. No blogs or editorials. Wikipedia and similar sites are **not** acceptable sources for your research. Please feel free to discuss your sources with me as your research progresses.

A SUCCESSFUL ESSAY WILL:

- Pursue a clear, focused, and specific argument with a complex research question.
- Employ **diverse, relevant, and credible** sources. Assess these sources carefully and avoid taking them at face value.
- Ground the argument in **concrete, specific, convincing, and well-contextualized evidence** from the sources.
- Avoid simply reiterating what sources are saying to reinforce the same point over and over. Instead, build complexity as your essay progresses. Each new source or piece of evidence should stretch your point of view and bring a new dimension to the argument.
- Include a complete **Bibliography** section at the end of the paper listing the full bibliographic information for each source. Carefully and properly **cite all evidence** and sources in **MLA format (or APA, if that is your major's preferred citation method)** throughout the paper.
- Pay close attention to **organization**—transitions, connections between ideas, etc.
- Pay thoughtful attention to **mechanics**, using clear, specific, and varied phrasing.