**Proposal Argument (Research Paper)**

**Required Draft Workshop: Thursday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m.** Bring 4 hard copies of your complete rough draft.

**Final Draft: Thursday, December 7 on Canvas, no later than 11:59 p.m. Please submit your paper in MS Word (.doc or .docx), .rtf, .pdf, a google link, or any compatible file.**

In your final paper, you will propose a possible (and feasible) solution to a problem that is of campus, local, state, or national significance. You should select a topic that is of interest to you and that has been of relevance to a wider audience fairly recently (say, in the last 5-8 years). It should be an issue that does not yet have a clear-cut solution.

Your essay should include a strong thesis statement stating your overall position, and your essay should do more than simply explain what you think should be done to address your chosen problem or issue. You will determine clear claims for the basis of your proposal, and show that your proposal addresses the need or problem. You need to provide appropriate evidence and thorough explanations.

But, you also need to provide more than your own opinion in order to be convincing. Therefore, you will need to incorporate material from 4 credible, relevant, and authoritative secondary sources. Be sure to effectively and correctly summarize, quote, or paraphrase any sources and identify that material correctly using signal phrases and MLA in-text citation style.

**Audience**

For this essay, you are writing for a semi- formal academic audience. This means that as a writer, you are being judged based on your evidence and reasons rather than on how you hit a reader’s emotional buttons.

**Style & Format**

5-7 pages (no less than 5 full pages, no more than 7), double- spaced, in MLA format, as we will go over in class. Papers that do not meet this length requirement will be very unlikely to meet the requirements of the assignment and usually tend to get in the C or lower range. AVOID FOUR, FIVE, and SIX PARAGRAPH ESSAYS. As we have discussed in class several times, college essays rarely stick to the five paragraph structure taught in junior high and high school, as college papers require more depth of discussion and explanation.

**Your Paper Should:**

* largely follow all of the characteristic features for a proposal argument (Defining a need or problem, making a strong and clear claim, showing that the proposal addresses the need or problem, showing that the proposal is feasible).
* include a clearly stated, cohesive claim early in your paper
* offer accurate and fair analysis of your chosen issue with enough background information to demonstrate you understand the complexity of your topic
* include clear, thoughtful reasoning; avoid fallacies!
* use appropriate and researched evidence to support your claims
* guide the reader step-by-step through the actions you are arguing would address your identified need or problem
* anticipate and deal with at least one potential counterargument to your overall claim or one of your subclaims
* include MLA- style in- text citations and works cited page
* provide an effective introduction that captures your audience’s interest and an effective conclusion that wraps up your proposal (examples will be provided)
* be largely free of sentence-level issues (grammar, spelling, punctuation, mechanical issues)
* be written in a formal academic, but engaging style that is appropriate for your audience, topic, and purpose