**Research Project Part 3: The Academic Argument Essay**

For this assignment, you will put together a unique argument, supported by academic evidence, combining your previous two assignments: part 1, the Literature Review; and part 2, the Rhetorical Analysis with new original argumentative content.

**Due Dates:**

-1st draft, Tuesday 5/24 (on Canvas and 1 copy in class)

-2nd draft, Thursday 5/26 (on Canvas and 4 copies in class)

-3rd draft, Thursday 6/2, to be turned in on Canvas as part of final research project portfolio

**The Complete Academic Argument Essay Should:**

1. Take into consideration your **literature review** that provides an overview of the important research surrounding the topic with which you are working.
2. Offer a unique thesis based upon a **rhetorical analysis** of your chosen digital or visual text/s.
3. Use research and evidence to support an **academic argument** that corrects misinterpretations, fills a gap, or modifies an idea related to the work you analyzed.
4. Consider and respond to the plausible reactions and/or opposing positions to your argument.
5. Raise questions for further study on this topic.
6. Be formatted according to MLA standards, and be free of major spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors.

**Academic Argument Essay Checklist:**

* Have you established a clear context for your argument?
* Is your argument significant? That is, have you established that your topic, and your position on it, contributes to an ongoing academic conversation?
* Are your premises and claims supported by credible reasons and academic evidence?
* Did you establish a clear thesis and provide a roadmap for your readers so they can easily follow your argument?
* Do you include clear transitions between each section of your paper?
* Have you cited your sources correctly?

**Tips and Ideas for the Academic Argument Essay**

(Part 3 of the Research Project)

The Argument Essay is the third part of your three-part Research Project. In the first part, the **Literature Review**, you surveyed the scholarly research related to your topic and reviewed it for your reader, in order to situate your project within the academic conversation on your topic. In the second part of your project, the **Rhetorical Analysis**, you conducted an analysis of a digital or visual text/s related to your topic. Now, based on that analysis you can (for Part Three, the **Academic** **Argument Essay**):

* Summarize the findings of your analysis and discuss any significant conclusions that you drew from the analysis:

***Based on your analysis, what did you find out about…?***

* Take and argue a position on your topic, based on the research and analysis you’ve done

***Now that you’ve done the research, what is your position on…?***

* Make specific policy recommendations based on the first two parts of your paper

***What should be done about…?***

***Should government action be taken to deal with…?***

***How should consumers approach…?***

* Raise issues for further discussion and research

***What more needs to be studied about…?***

* Bring up questions that still need to be answered

***What didn’t your research cover?***

***What kind of more substantial study needs to be done?***

Part Three (the Academic Argument Essay) needs to make a clear argument about your topic. As such, you will need to establish a clear thesis and support it. Your Academic Argument Essay Thesis will be based on the research you conducted for your literature review and the thesis that you established in your rhetorical analysis; *it will become the thesis for your whole project*. Your essay should:

* Have a clear central claim (or thesis) about your topic
* Provide reasons for that claim
* Support all claims and reasons with evidence
* Consider opposing views and refute them
* Convey the overall significance of your project: it should answer the question, “so what?”

**Moving Toward a Research Project Thesis Statement:**

 - What is the most compelling common debate among your sources? (This question helps narrow your focus if your sources are still too broad in reach.)

 - Based on what these authors have written and your own values and experience, if you were in conversation with them, what would your position be?

 - Which solution offered (or what solution of your own) do you think is most viable?

 - Reword this solution as a claim (this is your working thesis).

 - What pieces of evidence in any of the sources would best support your position?

 - From the sources, what is the most credible counterargument to your position?

 - How would you respond to that counterargument?

- Use your sources as a jumping off point for a new argument. Suggested argument prompts:

 - Create an argument about our culture and what your sources say about it.

 - Use one or more of the examples from your sources as a basis for a new argument.

 - Use examples from your sources to argue about the way people think, act, or

 something that needs to change.

 - Demonstrate that some of your sources’ claims are flawed because they are different from yours and other peoples’ experiences.

 - Combine ideas from 1, 2, 3, or more of your sources to come with a new, unique argument.

Three Thesis Models:

1. **Misinterpretation model**: Although many scholars have argued about X and Y, a careful examination suggests Z.
2. **Gap model**: Although scholars have noted X and Y, they have missed the importance of Z.
3. **Modification model**: Although I agree with the X and Y ideas of other writers, it is important to extend/refine/limit their ideas with Z.

**Z =** the findings from your research

- What insight have you gained from your analysis of the sources? What conclusions have you come to through your analysis? Discuss some evidence from your sources that supports your point(s).

- Now that you have a focus for your essay and a working thesis statement, what other information do you need to find in your research?