

A+CE Signature Assignment
Essay Three: Researched Argument (worth 20% of final grade)

Purpose of assignment: To develop your ability to introduce, integrate, evaluate, discuss and reflect on information from academic texts in order to make a successful academic argument; to practice the type of research and writing that is often a part of upper-division courses; to be able to distinguish peer-reviewed academic research from non-peer-reviewed and educated-audience sources.

Assignment: Essay Three will be a researched, argumentative analysis based on a course-relevant community issue.

Audience: A generally informed public who has an interest in the course-relevant community issue.

Choosing a subject: You will each choose a subject based on our discussions of and your reflections on a course-relevant community issue and research it. Your initial research will result in homework writing that will then evolve into more rigorous research supporting an argument. Your early reading and drafting will tend toward the descriptive, and as you explore your subject and gain expertise, you'll begin to fashion a proper, academic argument.

Organization: Employ a standard argumentative structure that includes all the basics: an introduction/background section of one or two paragraphs; body paragraphs that delineate reasons and evidence that support the thesis; at least one counter-argument; a conclusion that usefully wraps up the argument in a persuasive manner.

Constraints: Your essay should be about 1500 words, double-spaced, standard fonts, bibliography/works cited page. You will use at least five peer-reviewed, academic sources and up to three non-academic sources. Non-academic sources are not required, but you must have a minimum of five peer-reviewed, academic sources. Consult Lunsford, the Purdue OWL, and UHD's own librarians.

Note: This essay is very similar to essay two in that it is an argumentative essay with sources. The primary difference between essay 2 and essay 3 is that you will almost exclusively use peer-reviewed, academic sources to support your position. Just as in essay 2, your sources help you develop **reasons** that support your **thesis** and **evidence** that supports your **reasons**.

Grading criteria:

- Effective and helpful introduction with an appropriately **argumentative thesis** and a conclusion that leaves the reader with something to think about
- Well-developed body paragraphs that, for the most part, engage one **or more** sources
- Reasons and evidence that are presented and analyzed in a manner that supports the thesis and makes explicit connections to it
- Well-introduced, documented, and discussed sources

- At least one counter-argument that engages either why a reader would disagree with your position or how you disagree with one or more of your sources.
- Accurate citation of at least five sources; three of which must be substantive articles or book chapters from peer-reviewed, academic sources.
- Accurate understanding of sources
- Clear and effective sentences
- Accurate bibliography page

Due Date: XX/XX/XXXX