

Argumentative Research Paper

Due:

Outline: 11/15 by midnight

Rough draft 11/20 before class (At least 800 words complete)

Draft 2 12/04 before class (Full Draft)

Final Draft 12/11 by midnight

For this paper, you will write a **1500 word** argumentative paper to serve as the cumulative product of your research this semester. This research paper may be different from other research papers you have done – your ideas need to be specific, well-developed, well-stated, well-supported, and well-organized.

To accomplish this:

- 1) You will first need to determine what you want to argue and **who** you want to convince with your argument.
- 2) Define what type of argument you are making
- 3) Include the necessary elements for an argumentative research paper:
 - a. **Introduction** (contains thesis)
 - b. **Condition of terms/Background information** (summarize/explain/justify the importance of your issue & argument)
 - c. **Narration** (contains support, examples, scenarios, etc.)
 - d. **Confirmation** (elaboration used throughout your paper to demonstrate your comprehension/understanding of your topic)
 - e. **Refutation** (decide how to accurately approach, recognize, and refute the opposition)
 - f. **Conclusion** (summarize and close your argument with either a necessity for recognizing the problem or presenting a “call to action” for that problem)

Also, consider the following:

- **Your audience:** To whom are you writing and what does this particular audience need to know about your argument and why do they need to know it? The more specific your audience is, the easier it will be to anticipate the ways in which you need to present your argument.
- **Your purpose (thesis):** Are you trying to “shed light” on a situation to raise awareness, or are you creating a “call to action” by asking people to do something about a situation that is already defined as an issue?
- **Your position:** What is the logic behind your argument (do so by avoiding the use of “I think”, “I believe”, or “I feel” statements)? Is it clearly supported throughout your paper?

Expectations and Requirements:

- 1) Not only do you need to **take a position**, but you need to **clearly define** what your position entails (i.e., if you’re writing an argument stating Adderall is over-prescribed for

ADHD, then what alternatives are available? What is your position on the alternative treatments?)

- 2) Provide a **strong thesis** statement that helps define your position and supports the reasoning behind why your position is important (your **thesis does not contain an overview/outline of your paper**)
- 3) Provide **at least three claims** that support your thesis. These claims should be closely related to each other to create a focused and specific argument.
- 4) A minimum of **five authoritative sources** that act as evidence to help support your claims
 - a. At **least two** of your sources should come from **scholarly/academic journals**
 - b. Use sources that are relatively **current** (within the past 5-10 years, depending on the topic)
- 5) Appropriate use of topic sentences for each paragraph ("**signposts**" that help readers refer back to your thesis. This is **not a restatement of your thesis** in every paragraph, but acts as a means to **organize** your argument and support your purpose and position)
- 6) Use **parenthetical/in-text citations** in **MLA format**
- 7) Provide at least one pertinent opposing viewpoint with your rebuttal/refutation
- 8) A **Works Cited page** that follows **MLA guidelines** (refer to your textbook, handbook, and the Purdue OWL website for those guidelines)

Criteria	Excellent/ Proficient	Good/Competent	Novice	Poor
Position: Do you have a clear and focused position, is it clearly articulated in the beginning of the essay, do you stay focused on supporting your position as you discuss your support, are the examples adequately supporting the position, is the position specific enough for you to adequately support	50-41	40-31	30-21	20-0
Examples for support of your position: Are the examples sufficient to convince your audience that you are correct in your position, will the audience likely find your examples acceptable, are the examples relevant?	45-36	35-26	25-16	15-0
Development/Explanations of your examples of support: Are the explanations sufficient to convince your audience—or do you assume your readers already think the way you think or that the examples speak for themselves; will the audience find your discussion clear and acceptable; is the discussion relevant? Is each point connected back to the thesis statement in some way?	45-36	35-26	25-16	15-0
Organization: Is there a logic to the progression your paragraphs, do paragraphs stay focused on developing one piece of support or do they wander from one idea to the next, do paragraphs repeat ideas?	30-21	20-11	10-6	5-0
Surface level writing: Are there grammatical errors, are sentences too wordy, is the syntax clear, is the spelling correct?	15-11	10-6	5-3	3-0

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MLA Citation Form	15-11	10-6	5-3	3-0