**English 102: Rhetoric and Composition**

**Major Assignment 2: Researched Argumentative Essay**

**Introduction:**

Argumentation is a foundational component of many types of academic work, so to effectively enter the academic discourse community (and to be successful in your work here as a university student), you must be able to create and compose effective arguments. The aim of this assignment is to help you develop the skills necessary to understand and utilize the conventions of academic writing necessary for creating scholarly arguments. To achieve this aim, you will compose your own argumentative essay that builds from the research and foundational work you completed in your annotated bibliography and proposal.

**Requirements:**

Essay length: **2,500 words** minimum (***not*** including your Works Cited page)

Minimum required sources (from annotated bibliography, but you may need more!): **8**

Style guidelines: **MLA**

Due Dates:

● First draft due for peer review by **11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 23rd**(aim for 1,500 words)

● Peer Review responses for this assignment due by **11:59pm on Thursday, March 25th** (fill out the peer review worksheet)

● Final Draft due by **11:59 pm on** **Saturday, March 27th**(2,500 word minimum) (This version will be given a ghost grade as well as comments for improvement by your instructor, and then you will resubmit it in the Final Portfolio during Finals week.)

**Instructions:**

For this assignment, you will write a sustained argument stemming from your research this semester. This assignment should develop out of your project proposal and annotated bibliography, as well as other assignments you have already completed for class. Your essay should exhibit your refined stance and insight regarding your chosen topic and engage the conventions of academic writing. The Researched Argumentative Essay will represent a sustained critical argument drawing from your research to examine and interpret a given situation, event, or subject persuasively. In other words, you are answering your research question as completely as possible in a way that will be appealing and persuasive for academic audiences. Once complete, your essay must be 2,500 words minimum and make use of at least eight sources from your annotated bibliography assignment. Your paper should adhere to MLA 8 style for research papers.

A successful paper will do the following:

❏ Articulate a thesis that answers your research question, andsupport it with a reasonable argument and authoritative evidence.

❏ Develop an argument using academic style—with well-written prose, effective organization, accurate grammar & usage, and appropriate academic language.

❏ Provide an adequate background and context for the argument you wish to make, and explain why this background and context is important to your thesis.

❏ Properly utilize researched evidence by effectively integrating each source, using both prose signposts and MLA in-text citations to indicate another’s work, all while maintaining coherence and readability.

❏ Argue the significance of your argument: Where does it get your intended audience? How does it address the problems outlined? What should your reader do now? Where can changes be made? Your argument should have a point—a “Who cares?” which is grounded in your research and experience.

❏ Reasonably account for opposition to your argument or differences surrounding it—not simply rejecting your “opponents” but accounting for their critiques within the development of your own argument.

❏ Provide readers with a “call to action” that outlines a practical means for affecting positive change.

❏ Include a Works Cited page with correct MLA citations for each of your sources (do not include annotations, only citations).