Project Three: Researched Argumentative Magazine Article or Podcast Episode

Assignment Sheet 1020

Description: Everything we say or do presents some kind of argument, takes some kind of position (e.g., “Everyone in the United States is entitled to affordable healthcare.”). For this project, you will write an essay (or podcast script) that contains a stance on an issue that is arguable, meaning a person of goodwill could agree or disagree with you and present reasons and evidence to support their position.

Based on our course objectives, the purpose of creating a researched argument is to help you engage in recursive research processes that connect reading, writing, and reflection, while practicing rhetorical flexibility through the conventions of your chosen genre. Influenced by your work from projects one and two, you will now integrate credible secondary sources, alongside primary research data, to respond to complex ideas and perspectives through argumentation and rhetoric.

Consider this before you write:

- Your essay or script must contain a clear thesis statement as well as necessary background information on the topic being argued so that readers can have a greater understanding of the argument at hand. Consider how to help readers place the ongoing conversation within its historical context.
- Explore the issue strategically. For instance, consider what reasons to include, and how you will spend time supporting those reasons through various types of evidence (statistics, expert testimony, anecdotal evidence, textual evidence, facts, examples, illustrations, etc.). Although you may have been told to keep “I” out of academic papers, here, it is encouraged! Spend time addressing your own experiences and thoughts connected to your topic. Your voice matters! Don’t set it aside.

- Keep in mind that your argument should also appeal to readers' values and establish a trustworthy tone (consider the rhetorical appeals).
- And it should spend ample time addressing and carefully considering alternative positions and points of view. No matter how reasonable or careful we are in arguing our position, there will be others who disagree or offer counterarguments. It's important to acknowledge them, and, at times, offer concessions or refute them.
- Use MLA style. This includes the use of in-text citations to appropriately cite your work, as well as a Works Cited list on its own page following the argument's conclusion.

Criteria for Grading:

5–6-page argumentative researched magazine article or podcast outline script, double spaced, 12-point font. If recorded, the audio is at least 10-15 minutes, contains an intro and outro, and the audio file is accompanied by a Works Cited list on its own document. If a written article, images are included (to meet genre conventions). The project contains all necessary components and key features of arguing a position (background info, thesis statement, reasons, various types of evidence, counterclaims, rhetorical appeals, trustworthy tone) and uses at least 5 secondary sources along with primary research data and/or anecdotal evidence. The project contains the author's own authentic voice and tone, with a sense of 'the writer' in its composition.

Assessment:

To receive a passing grade on this assignment, make sure you have everything listed in the "Criteria for Grading" section above. You will have the opportunity to workshop this assignment with your classmates. I will provide feedback on your project following its submission, which will advise you on how to revise this project, should you choose to do so.