**WRITING PROJECT IV: Researched Argument Essay**

This is where you will bring it all together and show what you have learned this semester. You will demonstrate your skill in articulating complex ideas, examining claims and evidence found in your research materials, supporting your ideas with relevant reasons and examples, sustaining a coherent discussion, and using standard written English.

**Assignment:** Using the sources that you listed on your Annotated Bibliography, as well as any additional academic sources, write a research-based argument essay of eight to ten pages.

**Topic:** Same as that for your Annotated Bibliography. *No topic changes allowed! (Also, note that if you did not submit a Proposal & Annotated Bibliography, you may not submit a final research paper for points. This is stipulated in the syllabus.)*

**Project Learning Objectives:**

* Synthesizing research materials
* Establishing a claim
* Organizing a research-based argument
* Developing your own argument using evidence consisting of expert opinion, facts and statistics, your own experience and observations (if appropriate to the topic), and your analysis and evaluation of the ideas found in your research
* Integrating and documenting research sources
* Integrating your own ideas with those of others
* Using visual tools such as tables, charts, graphs, and illustrations

**Purpose:**  To convince your readers to agree with your stand on the issue **or** to believe in the soundness and reasonableness of your position

**Focus:** You can address your topic on a “local” level. The way in which you do this will depend on your specific topic. You might relate it to Las Vegas, to a certain region, to UNLV specifically, or to university students in general. This is part of audience analysis: you are appealing to the interests and concerns of your readers.

**Audience:** UNLV students who are uninformed and neutral about your argument/position

**Sources:** Five academic-level secondary sources. Newspaper articles, magazine articles, non-academic websites, etc., may be cited in addition to, but may not replace, the five academic sources. You may also make use of interviews and surveys. In other words, you may use sources that were not included in your Annotated Bibliography, but they can only be added onto your existing pool of sources and not replace them.

**A Graphic OR an Image:** One or the other is required –

**A GRAPHIC** such as a table, chart, graph, or diagram:

* Up to one page length requirement may be met by graphics
* You may include more than one page of graphics, BUT the amount in excess of one page CANNOT substitute for text in the length requirement
* Font used in graphics must not exceed 12-point font
* Tables, charts, and graphs are used most commonly to show numerical data or statistics
* If you conducted a survey, you can use a graphic to show your results.
* If you found a research source that supplies statistical data about your topic, you can put the data into a graphic; don’t forget to cite the source of the data.
* If you found a graphic in one of your research sources that you want to use, you can design a copy of the graphic or, if it is an electronic source, you can download it or you can copy and paste it into your document. Don’t forget to cite the source.
* You may compose a graphic(s) yourself, or you may use one(s) that you found in your research materials.

**An IMAGE** such as artwork, an advertisement, a cartoon, or a news photo that communicates information or an idea about your topic:

* Images may account for up to one page of the length requirement.
* You may include more than one page of images, BUT the amount in excess of one page CANNOT substitute for text in the length requirement.
* Visuals are used to relay opinion, inspire reaction, or influence emotion.
* Tip: Use Google’s Image Search feature to find images related to your topic. On the Google home page, click on *Images.* Make sure the image is professional and visible (not distorted).

**Your GRAPHIC and/or IMAGE must be (1) labeled, (2) cited, and (3) referred to in the text *before* its placement.**

**Required Length:** 8-10 pages, up to one page of which may consist of ancillary graphics and images, PLUS a “Works Cited” page – so that’s at least **seven** pages of text.

**Thesis:** Underline. Not only is a strong thesis emphatic and takes a clear stance, it should also provide grounds under which you are convincing your claim to be true. (Think “because statement,” your reasons. This will also assist you in your organization.)

**Grading Criteria: See Rubric on WebCampus**

**Due Date: See Syllabus**

Post in Webcampus, under the project’s link in **RED.**  
Word docs only, no PDFs or Mac Pages.  
Save/Save As and submit in the following format: "LastnameFirstname - Eng 102. SectionNumber"

You only get one attempt to submit, so be sure that what you post is your final draft.

**\*Note Due Dates for Components (Outline, First Draft, Second Draft)**