

The rubric for your research project essay is fairly simple and straightforward:

- The essay needs to be thesis driven, meaning *your* argument should guide the paper.
- You should include an inciting incident (recent event) in your opening section (somewhere in your introduction) to establish exigency and kairos.
- The “social justice” implications of your argument should be clear. Remember, social justice perspectives look at how the **benefits** and **burdens** of being a member of a society are distributed (or balanced) throughout the citizenry.
- Your research should reveal the complexity of your topic and should avoid stacking the deck or reducing the topic to two “pro/con” sides.
- You must cite at least six research sources in your argument; however, strong and excellent research papers will probably draw from 8-12 sources.
- Your essay must include correct MLA citations for each source referenced (this includes acknowledgment phrases, in-text parenthetical citations, quotation marks when directly quoting, and a corresponding entry in your Works Cited for each source).
- Structure, use of appeals, tone, and all other rhetorical considerations are up to you.
- Remember to transition between ideas and paragraphs.
- Your essay must be at least 6 full pages in length, not including your Works Cited page. Strong and excellent papers usually fall in the 7-10 page range. Of course, margins should be 1” all around, and font should be TNR size 12. Double space the entire essay and make sure the “after” spacing for line spacing is set to “0”.
- If you add visual images (pictures, graphs, etc.), cite them correctly and make sure your essay is 6 full pages *prior* to adding your images.
- Essays that do not meet the minimum source and/or page requirements are not eligible to receive a passing grade.
- **Rough Draft for Peer Review Due Date: bring TWO PRINTED COPIES to class on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.**
- **FFN Due Date: Due via email before class on Friday, March 9, 2018.**

Introduction: The initial paragraphs introduce the reader to the topic; sets the context and tone of the essay; hooks/entices the reader; concludes with a thesis statement.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Inciting Incident: Introduction section cites a relevant and recent (2017-2018) event that establishes argument’s kairos and exigency.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Thesis Statement: Thesis statement includes the author's claim (what side he or she will be arguing) and a brief preview of how he or she will prove/support that claim.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Organizational Strategy: Organization of main points and research within the body of the essay is logical, clear, and easily understood by the audience. Author makes use of transitions between paragraphs and topic sentences in each paragraph to guide the audience's reading. Author resists repetition of material and/or main points.				

Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Rhetorical Strategies: Author is aware of and makes use of appropriate tone, purpose, target audience, context, intertextuality, appeals (ethos, pathos, logos), kairos and exigency, logical fallacies, etc. to persuade his or her audience.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Incorporating Research: In addition to summarizing sources, author practices analyzing and synthesizing research.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Research: Author cites 6-12 sources. All sources listed in the Works Cited are also specifically and explicitly referenced in the essay's body, and vice versa.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
MLA Formatting and Citations: Each reference to a source (summary, paraphrase, direct quote, analysis, synthesis) includes an acknowledgment or signal phrase and a correctly formatted in-text parenthetical citation . Each source referenced is listed in the Works Cited. Document formatting adheres to MLA criteria.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Conclusion: Beyond simply restating the thesis and summarizing the essay's main points, the conclusion answers the "so what?" question. Author uses the conclusion to: offer further/future implications of the debate; invoke the reader's sense of responsibility; call the reader to action; and/or revisit strategies/topics used in the introduction.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Length: Essay is 6-10 pages, not including the Works Cited page and visual aids (pictures, graphs, etc.).				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Polishing: Essay is carefully proofread for grammatical errors and confusing syntax. Author uses precise and concise language.				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable
Overall FFN Grade:				
Excellent	Strong	Satisfactory	Weak	Not Acceptable