Research Paper

You will **write a research paper (≈2 pages) on an issue of your choice**. You will need to approve your issue with me before writing your paper. Remember an issue centers on a question that is unresolved in a community.

You should conduct enough research from other sources to understand multiple perspectives on the issue. Your paper will need to **reference at least four credible sources**, including **at least one source from a point of view different than your own**.

Once you have fully explored the issue, you will then be ready to take a position on the issue. Your paper will present your position in the form of an argument (a claim supported by reasons). You should draw upon your research to support your claim and to address other perspectives in the conversation.

Your paper should be **organized with a clear introduction, supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion**. The introduction should show the significance of your issue and present a focused thesis statement outlining the main claim of your argument. Your body paragraphs should include examples and details that show how your research supports your argument. You should also show awareness of your audience by acknowledging and dealing with another perspective.

This is a formal academic paper. For reasons of both academic honesty and to build your own credibility, it is important that you cite the sources of your information. Your paper should be in **MLA format** and should include both **in-text citations** and a formal **Works Cited page** (in addition to the 2 pages of argument).

Your paper should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1″ margins. **Choose a title for your paper** that reflects its main ideas.

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| **Category** | **Superior: 20-19** | **Good: 18-16** | **Developing: 15-14** | **Not Yet: 13-10** |
| **Argument** | Your paper presents a focused, thoughtful, and convincing argument about an issue, demonstrating why your position is best. | Your paper presents a focused argument about an issue. | Your paper presents a debated issue but is tentative in taking a position. | Your paper does not address the assignment. |
| **Supporting Research** | Your paper thoroughly develops reasons to support your position by using abundant and convincing evidence drawn from your research. You show awareness of the range of opinion existing on the issue. | Your paper supports your argument by referring to at least four credible sources. | Your paper presents a thin level of research to support your argument. | Your paper presents little if any evidence that you have researched the issue.  |
| **Presentation of Research** | You integrate quotations smoothly into your own writing, and you cite other’s ideas properly. You use correct MLA paper format.  | You provide citations for any quotations and ideas you have gained from others. You use MLA paper format. | You provide spotty citations for your research. You deviate from MLA paper format. | You do not provide citations for others’ ideas. You do not follow MLA paper format.  |
| **Organization** | Your paper demonstrates control and sophistication in organizing ideas to make a point. Your introduction is catchy and compelling. Each paragraph transitions smoothly. Your conclusion highlights the significance of your insights. | Your paper is clearly organized with clear introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs. Each body paragraph is introduced with a clear topic sentence. | Your paper exhibits rudimentary organization but is at times disjointed or lacking in direction. | Your paper lacks organization and cohesion. |
| **Style** | Your paper is professionally presented with a superior level of eloquence and polish. You consistently maintain a formal academic voice. | Your paper is adequately presented and has been proofread. You use an appropriate formal academic voice. | Your paper has occasional distractions because of conventions errors or awkward language use. You may occasionally slip from an academic voice. | Your paper is marred by error-ridden language. It is sloppy and appears to be hastily thrown together. Your voice is consistently informal. |