

## Assignments 1 and 2: Research Assignment and Essay

### Assignment 1: Research Assignment

**Worth: 15 Marks**

**Due: Week 4 (midnight on Friday)**



*Please note: This research assignment is designed to help you prepare for the essay (Assignment 2). Before you begin this assignment, discuss the essay topics below. You cannot begin to research without having chosen a topic, thought it through carefully and planned your research. Possible topics will be discussed in your first tutorials.*

*The instructions below are complex and we urge you to follow them meticulously - the ability to follow a brief exactly is one marker of professional writing.*

**Topic:** Choose a topic associated with your discipline on which you will research and then later write an essay. It must be in the form of:

The role of the [discipline professional or relevant issue] in [an aspect of your discipline]

For example:

- The role of the librarian in shaping teenagers' attitudes to reading
- The role of the Heidelberg School in influencing current Australian art
- The role of the arts in primary education
- The role of history in influencing current policy development
- The role of web design or social media in influencing children
- The role of the designer in promoting particular products and services
- The role of marketing in promoting unhealthy attitudes
- The role of ethics and social justice in journalism/marketing/education/law (or any other profession)
- The role of creativity and experimentation in writing/design/performance studies/Fine Art (or any other profession)
- The role of the architect, planner or construction manager [*choose one*] in inner city development
- The role of building restoration in creating a sustainable environment
- The role of the construction manager in promoting health and safety on building sites

Many more examples will be discussed in your Week 1 tutorials.

## Assignment Instructions

1. Find **five scholarly texts** to help you explore your chosen topic. You must choose texts from as wide a range of sources as possible, so you read a variety of perspectives on your topic. All of your texts must be recently published, scholarly and appropriate to your topic. At least three must be scholarly journal articles. Do not include newspaper articles, dictionaries, Wikipedia entries, Google images, etc. among the texts.
2. Reference your five scholarly texts as a list of references according to the Chicago author-date 17B referencing style or the APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition referencing style. You can choose which of these two systems you use; in general, Humanities students should choose APA 7<sup>th</sup>, and Built Environment students should choose Chicago author-date 17B. List all references in alphabetical order with hanging indents.
3. On the next page, copy these five scholarly references. Underneath each one, copy the following heading, and then fill in the gaps with your summaries of the main argument and supporting ideas of each text in your own words:

**The main argument for this text is that: ..... . The following 3 or 4 related ideas support this argument: ..... .**

Add 3 or 4 dot points in which you state the related ideas in full sentences.

### Format (standard academic assignment format)

- Download the appropriate template from the Assignments section of Blackboard (Bb), fill in your details on the front page, and add a cross on each scale along with your own comments on how you feel you have worked on this assignment (very important to begin to develop your self-reflexivity). On the page after this you will find the template for the assignment itself - type your title on the first line, then start your assignment below this. (Note: you can only submit ONE file to Turnitin, so you must use this template - you can't submit the front page separately from the rest of your assignment.)
- If, for some reason, you lose the formatting or layout of this template, here are the formats required:
  - 1.5 line spacing, 12 point Times New Roman, and 2.5cm margins;
  - Page numbers on each page
- Word-process and save as a Word document (.doc or .docx). (If you do not currently have Word on your computer, download the free MS Office from your Curtin Oasis page at <https://oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/student/proplus.cfm>.) Do not submit pdf documents since it is difficult for tutors to give you detailed feedback within a pdf.
- To enable your tutor to identify your file easily, name it this way: lastname\_firstname\_assignmentname. Turnitin will prompt you to give your assignment a title - please use the file name (i.e., last name\_firstname\_assignmentname).
- Spell-check your work before submission.

Submit the complete assignment through the Bb Assignments tab before midnight on Sunday in Week 3. (See calendar at the back of the unit outline for dates.)

## Notes

- a. If you have found an old text that is central to your topic, put it aside for your essay. Do not include it among the five texts for this assignment – one of the main aims of this assignment is for you to demonstrate that you can find recent texts.
- b. If you have chosen a long text (e.g., a book), then focus on one section or chapter for this exercise.
- c. If you cannot identify an argument in the text, then it is very likely to be a descriptive text and, therefore, not scholarly.
- d. Make sure you give enough information for your tutor to access the texts you have chosen (i.e., online links or database information) if they need to check your ideas.
- e. Please do not use EndNote for this first assignment as the fields that the program introduces into your essay make it impossible for your tutors to give you specific feedback on your referencing mistakes.
- f. Sample student assignments are available in the Assignments section of the unit Bb site.

### Assignment 1 (Research Assignment) marking criteria

- Appropriateness, currency and range of texts (see FAQ2 on the Bb sidebar for a discussion of what makes texts current or recent)
- Accuracy and completeness of Chicago or APA referencing (please see above for the required system)
- Understanding of main arguments and related ideas of texts
- Clarity and conciseness of written English
- Fulfilment of assignment brief
- Formatting and online submission of assignment

### Assignment 2: Argumentative Essay, First Version

**Worth: 45 Marks**

**Due: Week 8 (midnight on Friday)**

Write a 1500-word essay addressing your topic and arising from your research for Assignment 1, the Research Assignment.

*(Note: you do not have to use all the texts you found for the research assignment, and you are encouraged to add additional texts.)*

Incorporate in-text citations to at least five recent scholarly texts to build and support your argument. At least three of these texts must be scholarly journal articles. You are encouraged to use more scholarly texts, but you must use at least five. Your essay must be a completed first version, written in full sentences and referenced correctly.

Note: although your marks for this first version of the essay will be replaced by the marks you receive on the final version, think of this submission as a chance to bank a certain number of marks – your final mark cannot drop below the mark you receive for this version.

## Assignment 2: Argumentative Essay, Final Version

Worth: 45 Marks (replaces the mark you received on the first version)

Due: Week 14 (midnight on Friday)

Revise your first version in response to the feedback received from your tutor. Your final version must also be 1500 words.

### Referencing

You can choose one of the following two referencing systems, but must use it consistently in both versions of the essay.

- Curtin Library APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition referencing style for both the first version and revised essay. This should generally be used by Humanities students (including Design students).
- Curtin Library Chicago Author-Date (17B) referencing style for both the first version and revised essay. This should generally be used by Built Environment students.

You can find both guides online at the Curtin Library: <http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing>.

### Format

Follow the same format instructions as for the Research Assignment (Assignment 1 above), downloading the appropriate template from the Assignments page and typing your assignment into this template.

### Assignment 2 (Argumentative Essay) Marking Criteria

- Currency and appropriateness of scholarly research
- Quality of argument and structure of ideas
- Use of the conventions of the essay
- Accuracy and completeness of APA/Chicago referencing (both in-text and end-of-text referencing) – please see above for required system
- Clarity, conciseness and quality of written English
- Fulfilment of assignment brief
- Correct formatting and online submission
- In revised essay: Engagement with feedback through the revision process