

## English 103 – Argumentative research essay (25%)

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Write a five-page argumentative research essay that analyzes your topic in a measured and methodical way. Since you are using sources from the library for this essay and not your own experiences, your paper should be written in **third-person perspective**. (Review the “Point of View Practice” activity in Week 2 if you are unsure what this means.)

Your thesis statement for this essay should clearly argue one side of an issue, using credible sources to support your claims.

Because this is an argumentative, rather than persuasive, paper, your essay must also include an element of *counter argument*. This is a short essay, so this does not need to be an entire paragraph; but you as the writer must acknowledge rebuttals that your readers may have. (This is discussed in the Argumentation vs. Persuasion video lecture in Week 8. Please ensure you understand what this means so you can achieve this mark in your essay.)

### **Research requirements**

For this essay, you will need a minimum of 4 journals or books from the CNC library or databases (sources taken from outside the CNC library, while welcomed, will not count as one of the four required sources *unless approved by me*). Four is the **minimum** requirement, but you are welcome to use more.

Your research must be formatted according to MLA or APA style. This includes quotations, in-text citations and the Works Cited/References page. Please see the corresponding style guide. Failure to cite sources properly, whether purposeful or not, will be regarded as plagiarism. Even the misattribution of sources through incorrect page numbers may be considered plagiarism.

We will cover in-text citations and references in detail in Weeks 9 & 10.

### **Topic**

You may choose to research and write on a topic of your own choosing for this essay. Your topic **MUST** be approved by your instructor no later than Mar. 31, 2021. Please send an email with your topic idea to [lawm3@cnc.bc.ca](mailto:lawm3@cnc.bc.ca). (I recommend choosing a topic sooner than Mar. 31, as you will need time to research and write an Annotated Bibliography by Apr. 7.)

### **Take note of these topics to avoid:**

- Covid-19 – it is the most topical of all topics and is currently unfolding, so there will not be many peer-reviewed sources yet currently available.
- Topics that have been argued many times before (e.g. legalizing marijuana, euthanasia, student fees, legalized prostitution, animal testing, violence in video games, etc.)
- Topics that are fully explained by one source
- Topics that you know nothing about

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- Topics that are too general and broad in scope
- Topics you have already written about

### **Guidelines**

Your essay should include the following elements:

- A clear argumentative thesis statement, which is supported by your main body paragraphs
- Logical organization
- Effective paragraph structures/unity (topic sentences, specific examples, transitions)
- Effective argumentation (claims and evidence)
- Effective use of appropriate research to support claims
- The inclusion of at least one opposing view, and rebuttal
- Efficient language (spelling, punctuation, grammar, clarity and accessibility)
- Proper MLA or APA formatting and citations (in-text and works cited/references)

### **Due dates**

**Wednesday, Mar. 31, 6p.m.** – deadline for topic approval by email (lawm3@cnc.bc.ca)

**Wednesday, Apr. 7, 6p.m.** – Annotated Bibliography due (see additional instruction sheet for this assignment)

**Wednesday, Apr. 14, 6p.m.** – Submit evidence of **pre-writing**, an **outline**, and your **first draft** on Moodle.

- Pre-writing can include brainstorming notes, mind maps, etc. (See Week 2 for pre-writing video lecture).
- The outline should be a more formal break-down of your essay plan (See Week 2 for outlining video lecture). There is an outline template for you to use in the “Essay 3” section on Moodle.
- Your first draft should be a completed document with thesis statement and topic sentences underlined.

**Wednesday, Apr. 21, 6p.m.** – Students should have completed a peer review of another student’s essay. Each student will receive feedback from a peer (student) and from the instructor.

**Wednesday, Apr. 28, 6p.m.** – A final draft of the essay with all corrections made is due, submitted on Moodle.

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Word documents are preferred for assignments, but PDFs will be accepted. PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE IN THIS FORMAT: YourName-FirstDraft; YourName-FinalDraft.

**Paper Formatting guidelines (also see Resources section on Moodle)**

Modern Language Association (MLA)

For specific guidelines visit the OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>

- Your essay must be printed in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- It must be double spaced (there should be no extra spaces between paragraphs).
- Your page layout must contain 1-inch (2.54 cm) wide margins.
- You must include page numbers, with your last name in a header at the top of each page.
- You must include a unique title that reflects the topic of your paper.
- In the top left corner of the first page, you must include your full name, the course, your instructor's name and the date.

American Psychological Association (APA )

For specific guidelines visit the OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

- Your essay must be printed in 12 point Times New Roman font.
- It must be double spaced (there should be no extra spaces between paragraphs).
- Your page layout must contain 1-inch (2.54 cm) wide margins.
- Insert page numbers flush right.
- You must include a unique title that reflects the topic of your paper.
- You must include a title page that contains the title of the paper, the author's name, and the institutional affiliation.

**Grading**

Your pre-writing and outline will each be graded on this 5-point scale according to level of completion.

1/5	Document is incomplete – not enough detail is offered to show these documents were useful in developing the essay.
2/5	Document is poorly developed and/or partially complete.
3/5	Documents is only somewhat developed.
4/5	Document is complete, but could be more developed.
5/5	Document is complete and thoughtfully developed.

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Essay 3 Rubric – your first and final drafts will be marked using this rubric, with the addition of one criteria (see below) for your final draft.

Criteria	Full marks	Satisfactory	Approaching	No marks
Thesis statement	The thesis statement is clear and specific. The topic has been sufficiently narrowed. 6pt	The thesis statement is present, but could be more concise or clearer. 4pt	The thesis statement is vague. 2pt	The thesis statement is not present. 0pt
Structure	The essay's structure is complete and logically organized in block or point-by-point format, with clear transitions. 6pt	The essay's structure is complete but could be more organized in block or point-by-point format, or transitions could be clearer. 4pt	There are large-scale structural problems (insignificant paragraphs, non-distinct paragraphs, irrelevant paragraphs). Block or point-by-point format is not evident. 2pt	The essay follows no discernible structure or pattern; ideas are scattered and not presented in a logical way. 0pt
Topic sentences	All topic sentences connect back to the thesis statement. 3pt	Some topic sentences connect back to the thesis statement. 2pt	Few topic sentences connect back to the thesis statement. 1pt	Topic sentences are not present. 0pt
Introduction	The introduction is attention-catching and sets up the thesis and topic well. 6pt	The introduction sets up the thesis and topic well. 4pt	The introduction needs to be further developed. 2pt	The introduction is missing key information or is not present or does not set up the thesis and topic. 0pt
Conclusion	The conclusion is original and sums up the essay well.	The conclusion sums up the essay. 4pt	The conclusion is repetitive or needs to be	The conclusion is not present or missing key information.

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	6pt		further developed. 2pt	0pt
Paragraph development	Paragraphs have specific, relevant, well-developed supporting details. 6pt	Paragraphs have supporting details, but one or more should have been further developed. 4pt	Paragraphs sometimes have vague or undeveloped supporting details. 2pt	All paragraphs are very underdeveloped and do not have any supporting details. 0pt
Counter argument/rebuttal	Counter argument/refutation is specific, relevant, well developed and supported by research. 6pt	Counter argument/refutation is somewhat specific and relevant and/or somewhat supported by research. 4pt	Counter argument/refutation is poorly developed or not supported by research. 2pt	Counter argument/refutation is not present. 0pt
Grammar and sentence structure	Overall grammar and sentence structure have few errors 6pt	Overall grammar and sentence structure have some errors. 4pt	Overall grammar and sentence structure have many errors. 2pt	Overall grammar and sentence structure make the essay extremely difficult to understand. 0pt
Research	There are 4 or more relevant and reliable journals or books used (from the CNC library or databases). 6pt	There are 4 journals or books used (from the CNC library or databases). Some may be less relevant or reliable. 4pt	There are fewer than 4 journals or books used (from the CNC library or databases). Some may be irrelevant. 2pt	There are fewer than 2 sources used, or sources are not from the CNC library and were not approved. Some or all sources are irrelevant. 0pt
Citations and references/works cited	Research is formatted in MLA/APA style	Research is formatted in MLA/APA style with some errors.	Research is not formatted in MLA/APA style	Research is not formatted in MLA/APA style or is not present.

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	with few to no errors. 6pt	4pt	or has many errors. 2pt	0pt
MLA/APA paper formatting	MLA/APA formatting is followed with few to no errors. 3pt	MLA/APA formatting is followed with some errors. 2pt	MLA/APA formatting is followed with many errors. 1pt	MLA/APA formatting is not followed. 0pt
Corrections (Only on final draft)	Final paper shows clear evidence that student used comments provided on the draft to make improvements. 15pt	Final paper shows some evidence that student used comments provided on the draft to make improvements; most but perhaps not all feedback was addressed. 10pt	Final paper shows little evidence that the student used comments provided on the draft to make improvements. Only some feedback was addressed. 5pt	No corrections have been made. 0pt
Other	Special note that 25% of the rubric remains flexible for unforeseen criteria.			

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