

HUM 320: Research and Writing in the Humanities - Utopia and Dystopia
Department of Comparative Humanities
University of Louisville
Spring 2021

Argumentative Paper: Instructions

Re-read one of the following texts:

- Thomas More, *Utopia* (Selected Chapters)
- Francis Bacon, *The New Atlantis* (Selected Chapters)

[Both readings are available on the course Blackboard page.]

Identify the text's main topic and central arguments. Follow the instructions given in class and make a list of possible arguments, concerns, and responses. The list should help you write the essay – no need to include it with the submission.

Choose ONE thesis argument relating to the text (it can be a thesis argument made in the text or an argument that responds to the text). Formulate the argument in your own words and write it at the top of the page. This will be the subtitle of the essay. You are free to choose the appropriate title.

The paper should consist of the following paragraphs:

- 1. Introduction.** Acquaint readers with your topic, give them a sense of why it is important and why you are qualified to address it, suggest your paper's purpose, and state the essay's main claim (or thesis) in one or two sentences.
- 2. Background.** Provide basic information to help your audience understand and appreciate your position.
- 3. Thesis: Reasons and evidence.** Explain to readers why you believe what you do, and offer logical, well-chosen examples and data (=please use at least 2 quotations from the text) as support.
- 4. Counter-arguments.** Describe and explain alternative viewpoints, treating opponents fairly. Here you should consider at two possible objections to your thesis, and apply to each objection one or more of the following possibilities for responding to objections: acknowledge, concede, or refute.
- 5. Conclusion.** Leave readers with a strong sense of why they should agree with you by suggesting solutions, calling for action, or reemphasizing the value of your position.

Essay length: about 500 words. Double-spaced, .doc file. Write your name and the selected topic/title on the top of the page.

Essays should be submitted electronically on the Blackboard “Assignments” page, by **Friday, Feb. 26.**

GOOD LUCK!