# ENGL 202
# Persuasive Research Paper

---

The persuasive research paper is an answer to the questions you posed in your Topic Approval Paper. It is expected that you will discuss the findings of your research, make claims, and provide evidence. You will make a case (a persuasive argument!) for your answer(s) to the question(s) you posed. Be prepared to be flexible in your thinking and your outcomes. Your research may take you down paths you have not considered and lead you to viewpoints you may not have imagined before you began digging into your research material. Be open to your discoveries. Ultimately, your paper will ask your readers to think, feel or do something differently than they did before they read your paper. Your aim is to persuade.

**Assignment Guidelines**
Your final research paper should demonstrate thoughtful, researched answers to the questions you have posed. This paper should clearly demonstrate that you have thought about your topic deeply and carefully from many angles and that you understand the complexities of your topic/issue. Imagine your readers to be intelligent, interested people in your specific topic who have the ability to think about your topic and to form opinions based on the quality of information you provide.

Beyond your strong arguments and evidence, you should strive for a persuasive and professional tone to your paper. The paper must be organized logically, should make good use of topic sentences, transition statements, should follow the order stated in your thesis, and should conclude with a clear and specific call to action. Be clear on your stance – it can be complicated and nuanced, but be clear that your reader knows where you stand on your issue.

**Basic Requirements**
***Failure to meet the basic requirements below will result in a grade of 50 or lower.***

- Your paper should be persuasive, detailed, and well organized
- Your essay must identify at least 3 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources
- Your essay must include no fewer than 5 total sources
- Length: 3,500-5,000 words – absolutely no less than 3,500 words for a passing grade
- You may use graphs, charts, and/or photos as necessary, but they do not count toward your word count. We can discuss whether to use them in-text or as figures that appear at the end of the paper.
- Layout: MLA-style: 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced pages, page numbers and last name in the top right corner as a header.
- First Page: Top left corner (not header) should have: (in this order) Your Name, My Name (Dr. Melissa Birkhofer – spelled correctly), Course Number and Section (ENGL 202.XX), and a descriptive title centered on the page, not bolded; no title page

- No more than 1 block quote in paper.
- Free of grammatical and mechanical errors. Absolutely no misspellings.
- No fragments.
- Word Count listed at the end of the paper (*Note*: falsifying a word count IS cheating)
- Your essay should clearly show that you understand the complexities of your issue/topic and have thought about your topic deeply, from many angles.
- Your essay must focus on your issue in a global context. Papers that only focus on the U.S. are not acceptable.
- *Note*: A typo in the first sentence of your research paper will result in a 0 (zero). PROOFREAD your work.