

Writing Project 2: Researched Argument*

Purpose

For this project, you will use a combination of scholarly sources and popular sources to construct a researched argument. Your final draft should propose a solution or argue for the best approach to a current problem, phenomenon, or debate that's connected to your major (or to another area that interests you and that loosely relates to our theme of myths and monsters). You will identify a problem or issue related to your selected topic, look at any proposed solutions to that problem, and write an argument for a preferred solution, which you may come across in your research or develop on your own, based on your research. You will conduct secondary research, using the [Purdue Libraries' website](#) and other digital tools (such as [Google Scholar](#)) on a topic related to your personal or professional interest. You will assess, summarize, and synthesize sources to present an argument to a community of scholarly peers to practice engaging in a scholarly conversation.

Expectations

Exploratory Essay

Before you begin your researched argument, you will write and submit an Exploratory Essay, which will serve as a proposal for your researched argument. I will read it, and we will discuss your ideas during individual conferences two weeks before the final draft of the Researched Argument is due. I will either approve the topic or talk with you about how to revise it to meet the requirements of the assignment. Once I approve your topic and approach, you may not change your topic without consulting me and perhaps writing a second Exploratory Essay.

Researched Argument

Your final paper will need to identify a problem in a scholarly conversation, describe and explain this problem to your audience (in this case, members of your chosen discourse community), and propose a solution to the problem. Your proposed solution may either be one that you develop on your own or one that appears to be the best solution of those proposed by experts in the field. (This means you will need to support your proposed solution with evidence that you've found within that scholarly conversation or in other relevant sources.) You will also need to explain why this problem matters to your particular field, to the general public, or to a specific group of people.

Your final paper for this project will be 2,250–2500 words (approximately 10 pages, not including the exploratory essay, the Works Cited, and any visuals you may use), in 12 point font and double spaced with 1" margins in MLA format (8th edition). You may include visuals to aid you in your argument (charts, tables, data visualization, images, etc.), but remember that your visuals should mirror your overall (scholarly, formal) approach.

Reflective Essay

Similar to WP1, the last component of WP2 is a reflective essay. In it, you will explain your writing process and choices (500+ words).

You will be graded on the following criteria:

- How well you satisfy the goals and purposes identified in the assignment description, your proposal, and your reflective memo
- Synthesis of at least **7 sources**, including **at least 4 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources** from the Purdue Libraries' databases or Google Scholar (attributed through in-text citations and a Works Cited page at the end of the paper). **You may also incorporate non-academic sources, but you may not include more than 3.**
- The appropriateness of the evidence (e.g., previous research, current trends, data, historical precedent, etc.) used to support your solution to the problem

- How well the researched argument responds to the needs of an unfamiliar audience
- The organization, arrangement, and structure of the work
- Your explanation of your writing process and rhetorical choices in your reflection
- Proper formatting and proofreading of your essay, your bibliography/works cited, and your reflective memo to meet audience expectations

→ **WP2 is worth 25% of your final grade.**

Helpful Resources

This assignment is informed by the material discussed in Chapter 8 (“Writing an Exploratory Essay or Annotated Bibliography”), Chapter 13 (“Writing a Synthesis Essay”), and Chapter 16 (“Proposing a Solution”). As you develop your Works Cited page, remember to check your format using **Purdue Owl**.

**WP2 meets ICaP Learning Outcomes 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 2.d, 2.e, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 4.b, 4.c, 5.a, 5.b, 5.d, 5.e, 6.a; for more details, see <http://icap.rhetorike.org/outcomes>.*