ARGUMENTATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY

Studio Review: **March 30, bring digital copy to class**

**Final Draft Due:** April 3, submitted to Turnitin.com by start of class

**Total Possible Points:** 250 (200 for the written piece, 50 for the presentation. Both pieces must be completed for the entire project to be graded.)

**Assignment Rationale:** The art of argumentation is more than taking one side in the “I’m right; you’re wrong!” shouting match. Argumentation takes into account the various views on a given topic and determines which of those views seems to have more validity and provides support for that rationale. Yagelski posits that "the goal of argumentation is not necessarily to persuade. Especially in academic contexts, argument is intended to advance understanding. Persuasion, by contrast, does not attempt to engage an audience in a dialogue about an issue; rather, persuasion is an attempt to convince a reader to think or feel a certain way. The distinction is similar to the difference between an advertisement intended to persuade consumers to purchase a specific product, and one designed to present a point of view on an issue" (316). There are four main occasions for argument: "to solve a problem, to assert a position, to inquire into an issue or problem, to prevail" (317).

Yagelski continues, “Because argument has the power to persuade others to adopt a belief or take an action – often on matters of great importance – writers have a responsibility to engage in argumentation in an honorable manner. An argument should always be informed by a desire to seek truth or find a course of action that is morally justifiable—not to achieve self-serving, questionable, or illicit ends” (319).

**Assignment Guidelines:** In your essay you will want to:

➢ Define a research question based on what you have learned from our readings and from playing the game. Start doing preliminary research to get an overview of your topic. Start to focus your reading to develop a research question. Evaluate your research question and revise and modify it as necessary until it becomes your thesis statement. This claim/thesis will guide your paper.

➢ **Take a clear position on the issue.** Your position will be revealed through your claim/thesis.

➢ Provide background so your readers understand the issue at hand and why the issue is important.

➢ Support your argument with logical (logos), authoritative (ethos), and emotional (pathos) appeals.

➢ Include multiple perspectives on the issue and explain why your stance is the correct one versus the other views. This should be done in a respectful manner. This means that you will include counter arguments and rebuttals in your paper.

➢ Write with an appropriate tone and manner of address. You want to convince your readers; don’t give them a reason to disregard your paper without finishing it.

➢ Lead your readers through your thought process. Don’t assume that they will
connect the dots. Assumptions lead to misunderstandings. Be clear as to your views and why you believe what you do.

➢ Since this essay is a formal assignment, you’ll want to use closed-form prose throughout. This means no "I."
➢ You’ll need to incorporate a minimum of 8 sources. A variety of sources is a must. Do not solely rely on websites or articles, etc. Incorporating a variety of sources allows you to develop more credibility and authority on the subject because it shows you’ve researched diverse views.
➢ Since you’ll be employing multiple sources/perspectives, showing the relationships among sources will allow your audience to see the commonalities and differences between ideas. Therefore, it will be important to show source synthesis in your paper.
➢ Please make sure your essay is typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and formatted according to APA guidelines. Also, please make sure you save your paper in .doc or .rtf file format. Since you’ll be using outside sources for this essay, you’ll need to use APA citations and include a References page. The word count is a minimum of 2,300 words to 2,800 words and does not count your source page.
➢ Proofread, Proofread, Proofread!

Suggestions:

As always, I strongly encourage you to visit the Writing Center in Zahnow on the Third Floor. If you have any questions, please visit me during my office hours.

This assignment, as with all assignments will be assessed using the 111 rubric found in Canvas, focusing on Content, Organization, Style, and Conventions.