

Major Assignment 2: Argumentative Research Paper

The Assignment

For this assignment, you will write an argumentative paper supported by outside research.

Audience: Your classmates, professor, and other scholars engaged with this topic.

Goals: This type of paper shows your ability to contribute to the scholarly conversation by making a novel argument about a topic that is relevant to our class (Course Objective: Articulate a position). Your primary goal is to convince your reader of your argument (Course Objective: Situate writing for specific audiences and optimize it for its rhetorical context). In order to convince your reader, you must understand what others have argued about your topic and how those other arguments relate to your own (Course Objective: Engage with the work of others).

Instructions: You should start by identifying a topic of interest. This should relate to some aspect of the dynamics of race in “classical antiquity” and/or the relationship of “classical antiquity” to modern dynamics of race. Within your topic, you should identify a research question: this is the question that your thesis will answer or respond to after you’ve conducted and analyzed research. The thesis of the paper must be falsifiable. In other words, it is an argument rather than a statement of obvious fact. You must support this thesis with evidence gathered from close attention to your sources. These sources should include at least one primary source (this source can be ancient or modern) and at least three secondary sources (these sources must be from modern scholarship).

Context: Argumentative research papers are one of the most common forms of academic writing you will be asked to engage in as an undergraduate student. These sorts of papers will help you learn how to make a coherent argument supported by reliable evidence, a skill you will need whether you go on to do more scholarly writing or not.

The Steps

The Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: For the information, please see the proposal and annotated bibliography document.

First Draft: Make your best first effort, but recognize that it is only a first effort. This draft will need to be revised, but that’s a good thing! Revision is a critical part of the writing process. Only after something is written can we see what has worked and what hasn’t. We then revise accordingly. This draft should be between 1500-2500 words. Keep in mind that going drastically above or below the required word count for the final draft will make the revision process more difficult. I expect a good faith effort at a draft, not just an outline or free write.

Workshop Report: Write a letter to me that a) summarizes the feedback that you have received in your workshops and from other sources (myself, the writing studio) and b) discusses which

feedback you plan to implement in your revisions and why. This will be submitted as its own document.

Final Draft: This will be a polished, revised version of your paper. I am looking for ~2000 words. Please submit your final draft to Box in a word document, 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Be sure to cite the passages you discuss in Chicago style with the notes-bibliography system.

Due Dates

Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due: Friday, February 18th at 5pm.

First Draft Due: Friday, March 4th at 5pm.

Workshop Report Due: Friday, March 18th at 5pm.

Final Paper Due: Friday, March 25th at 5pm.

Grading Breakdown

Proposal: 10%

First Draft: 30%

Workshop Report: 10%

Final Draft: 50%