INFORMATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY

Introduction

We live in an information rich world. With all the media such as newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the World Wide Web, the amount of information available to us is overwhelming. But we must somehow develop skills to take in much information and, more importantly, be able to discern between accurate and inaccurate information and between fact and opinion.

In our democracy we often talk about our rights and freedoms far more than we talk about our duties and obligations that are a part of our democracy too. To be good citizens we at least must be informed about the basics of controversial topics in politics, religion and society. Sadly, even though we have freedom of the press, greatly expanded by the internet, too many of use are uneducated about the issues, and worse, apathetic about them. For instance, in a poll taken in 2006, 66% of respondents said that the United States found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq even though the president on many occasions has admitted his administration was wrong about that. In another year National Geographic magazine released a survey in which 10% of 18-25 year old Americans couldn’t find the United States on an unmarked map.

This essay will allow you to research an important debatable topic and become more knowledgeable about it. You will learn how to use the paragraphs to organize the different aspects of the topic. Finally, this essay is connected to the next essay, a persuasive research essay on the same topic.

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Assignment</th>
<th>page 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format Guide</td>
<td>page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Criteria</td>
<td>page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes Example</td>
<td>page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example Outline</td>
<td>page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example Essay</td>
<td>page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft Guide</td>
<td>page 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline Format</td>
<td>page 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes Handouts</td>
<td>page 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INFORMATIVE RESEARCH ESSAY TOPIC

TOPIC

For this essay we will work on a topic that explores a social issue. To help you further in this assignment, we will have a presentation by the library staff and how to do research. You will learn information on how to judge whether a website is appropriate for research or not. For this essay, you will research and report on an issue that has a history, current status, and is also debatable. You will be doing the research for this paper and then using the paper and the research to work on a persuasive essay.

ORGANIZATION

The essay will have an introduction, several body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Introduction - The introduction paragraph does three things for the reader.

First, the Lead-In Sentences introduce the topic to the reader. The writer shouldn’t assume that the reader has knowledge of the topic; rather the writer should give the obvious facts. At the same time the writer needs to interest the reader by writing general background information about the topic. For instance, for this essay you would start by writing about some general comments about the issue, including interesting facts, definitions, or even questions to the reader.

Second, the Thesis Statement sends a message to the reader that mentions what the essay is about and what particular attitude or view you have of it. For this assignment you will tell the reader the topic, that it has a history and is current.

➢ Both sentences are short and to the point.
➢ Both mention the topic, usually as the subject of the sentence.
➢ The present perfect verb “has been” tells the reader that the essay will cover from the past to the present.

Third, the Essay Map for this essay tells the reader about all aspects of the essay.

Body - The body will have many paragraphs. You should have at least four paragraphs - one on the history, one on the current status, one in favor of an issue, and one opposing the issue.

Conclusion - The conclusion allows the writer to repeat the main ideas of the topic: its history current situation and ideas from both sides of the issue. Since all topics continue to be relevant, you may also write about what the future holds for the issue.
Research - You will need at least four references, one for each part of the body of the essay.

ESSAY FORMAT

1. Type each final version with Times New Roman 12-point font.
2. Indent the first line of each paragraph by five spaces or one touch of the TAB key.
3. Use double spacing between each line and between paragraphs.
4. Have one-inch margins on the top, bottom, and sides of the page.
5. Starting with page two, number all pages in the upper right-hand corner of the page and your last name. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1kuHurJe2g
6. On the first page put your title followed by your name on the next line. Center both lines. Capitalize the first letter of the first and last words of the title. Between the first and last words, capitalize the first letter of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Don’t underline or use quotation marks around the title.
7. Turn in all the work on the essay in a twin pocket folder with the final version in the right hand pocket and the other work in the left hand pocket.

GRADING CRITERIA

This informative research essay will be graded by the following criteria:

1. Research Notes
2. Outline
3. Introduction Paragraph
4. Body Paragraphs
5. Conclusion
6. Spelling
7. Verb Tenses
8. Punctuation of Clauses
9. Subject and Verb Agreement
10. Antecedent and Pronoun Agreement
11. Formatting
**ROUGH DRAFT GUIDE**

**Introduction**  This opening paragraph needs to have lead in sentences to attract the reader’s attention and to tell the reader some basic information about the topic. Please write below the first sentence from your essay.

*Lead In Sentence*

Now write the thesis statement below.

**Thesis Statement**

**Body**  The body should have at least four paragraphs for the essay, one covering each aspect of the topic. For the history and current situations you should have at least three main points: facts, statistics, and quotes. For the argument paragraphs you should have at least three reasons for each side of the argument. Please write below a topic sentence for each of the three for each paragraph.

**History**

**Current Situation**

**One Side of Argument**

**Other Side of Argument**
TURN IN OUTLINE AND RESEARCH NOTES WITH FINAL VERSION

Informative Research Essay Outline

I. Introduction
   A. Lead In Sentences
   B. Thesis Statement
   C. Essay Map
      1. History
      2. Current Situation
      3. One Side of Argument
      4. Other Side of Argument

II. Body
   A. History
      1.
      2.
      3.
B. Current Situation

1. 

2. 

3. 

C. One Side of Argument

1. 

2. 

3. 

D. Other Side of Argument

1. 

2. 

3. 

III. Conclusion
Informative Research Essay Notes Handout

1. Source

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2. Main Ideas

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3. Details of main Ideas

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Informative Research Essay Notes Handout

1. Source

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2. Main Ideas

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3. Details of main Ideas

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