

## Argument/Research Paper:

Assignment: Research and write an argument paper that investigates an issue surrounding the world of education, work, and/or globalization. Either choose the field you've decided to study in school, a job you've had, or a career you are interested in and then do research to find an issue related to it, or pick an issue related to globalization and do research to support a position on that issue. Any issue related to education, work, or globalization is going to be complex and will generate no easy answers. You will need to find and look over a variety of perspectives and identify a claim in relation to the issue at hand. Remember, there are five predominant types of claims: 1) fact—something happened or exists, 2) definition—something has a particular meaning in a particular context, 3) cause—something is the cause of a problem or an effect of another a set of events of facts, 4) value—something is good or bad relative to a particular point of view or criteria, 5) policy—here is what should be done to solve a problem. After examining some articles about your topic, try some of these approaches to determining a claim. Then thoroughly support your position with the research (other arguments, statistical data, stories from people who have had experience with this issue) and clear, connected reasons that explain why you hold the position that you do. In addition to research, you can support your argument with your personal examples, testimony from friends or co-workers, or interviews with other knowledgeable experts. Remember, try to use quotes that will function as supports for your claim.

Topics: There could be a number of possible approaches and topics within the context of this reading section. Here are a few possible examples that come from the book:

- Read the international, local, and business sections of *The Post* and look for articles on wealth or poverty, work or joblessness, peaceful or unstable governments and try to draw connections between local and global events. What are these connections? (Wright, Kaplan)
- Check out the more academic journals *Foreign Policy* ([www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)), *The Wilson Quarterly*, and *The Economist* and look for articles that make connections between economics and global politics. Are these connections good or bad? (Wright/Kaplan, Wolman/Colamosca)
- Check out more popular magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Business Week* to see what they are saying about the global economy and the American workforce. One particular issue is the outsourcing of jobs overseas. Does outsourcing have positive or negative effects? (Wright/Kaplan, Wolman/Colamosca, "Temp Case")
- Thinking about changes in your own family history, do further research on the relationship between family and work. How should families be defined? How does the changing economy effect family life and structure? Key issues are childcare costs, inflexible work structure, lack of leisure time, etc. (Wolman/Colamosca, Ehrenreich, Putnam, de Grazia)
- After WWII, women in the workplace began to change American culture and economy. Do some research on this history and determine what you think the role of women in the workplace should be. Issues can range from exploitation of women workers in developing countries to the role of women as consumers of breadwinners in the West. (Wolman/Colamosca, Chan Lean Heng, de Grazia)
- Since the industrial revolution, work has changed from factory labor to knowledge and service work in the information economy. Look through *The Post's* job section just to see how many jobs are traditional labor and how many are service or knowledge work. Write about the changing definitions of work and the causes and effects of these changes. Issues could range from working poor, to healthcare, to worker rights. (Reich, Ehrenreich, "Temp Case")
- In a post-industrial world where working with information is central, education becomes central. Rather than learning one skill and having one job at one company for a lifetime, people

are constantly reskilling, learning new jobs and moving from job to job. This process generally entails ongoing schooling, both in schools and on the job. Is this a good or bad role for education? For workers? (Reich, Golman, Meredith)

These options are just possibilities for places to start, not mandates. Your research of these topics could lead you in many directions, or you could have or find a completely different issue to investigate.

Audience: Read the genre glossary for Academic article/Research paper (IC 561-63). On a most immediate level you are writing for me and the other students in the class. But the student research paper is practice for writing to an academic audience. Consequently, you should assume that you are writing to a broader audience that is interested in and somewhat knowledgeable of the subject at hand. This audience values clear writing, proper citations, and clear arguments. In addition, you should make sure your tone isn't too informal and you shouldn't assume that your audience thinks as you do: try to spell out all the thoughts and connections that are going on in your head—get them all explicitly on to the page.

Arrangement: Again, look at the genre glossary (IC 561-63) for details about traditional argumentative structure:

- Introduction: set up the topic and make an emotional or value appeal to your audience.
- Background: give some background history on the issue, discuss the pros and cons, discuss positive and negative effects, and/or discuss what others have said about the issue.
- Body: establish your position on the issue, giving credible, logical support.
- Conclusion: conclude with a final audience appeal that addresses your position specifically (as opposed to the issue in general as in the intro) and clearly connects the previous discussion.

Go back to the glossary for more ideas and details. This structure is only a possible approach: use it as a guide not a mandate.

Requirements:

- 6-7 page paper, double-spaced
- 10 sources, 2 from book, limit to 2 from the web, the other 6 have to come from library databases/research
- Solid organization and flow
- Clear connectedness and relevancy of your supporting points
- Proper MLA works cited and in-text citations: See the SS pages 561-593 for MLA and SS 680-683 for citing online sources (I will take off 10 points for improper citation)
- Proper grammar is, of course, required (I will take off 10 points if you have more than 5 major grammatical problems)

Primary Dates:

- M (Apr 24) – sign up for teacher conference, discuss Essay 3 assignment, invention-thesis day
- W (Apr 26) – do library assignment (meet in IN 317)
- M (May 1) – teacher conferences (meet in JC 230; bring draft and working bibliography): homework—continue research and drafting
- W (May 3) – teacher conferences (meet in JC 230; bring draft and working bibliography): homework—continue research and drafting
- W (May 10) – papers due in my box in the English department by 6:00

### Invention Work:

Open a word file and respond to 1-5.

- 1) Read through all of the assignments and decide which issue area you think you want to investigate. Think of the readings we've discussed, the topics above, and any personal experience with these issues and brainstorm or list the possible topics that could be involved.
- 2) Describe what you already know about the topic. Brainstorm or freewrite to pull together your prior knowledge and experience of the issue. Then explain why the issue is compelling to you: why is this something you want to write about?
- 3) Go back through the essays we read in the book (either mentally or physically) and decide which two are most relevant to the issue you chose. Skim the workplace/globalization sections in the TOC for possible essays. Skim some of the editors' intro section for key ideas to focus on. Write down some possible key ideas and texts that you might be able to use.
- 4) Perhaps most importantly: list 4 or 5 key search terms or phrases related to your topic/issue that you can use next Wednesday to start searching library databases. Be sure to come to class Wednesday with some good search term ideas. By Thursday, make sure you have a solid idea of the issue you want to investigate and some beginning search terms. We'll work through a worksheet to get your started on library research (IN 317).