

## Practice Activity

### Final Research Paper\*

Due: December 5, 2014

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to convince your readers to agree with your stance on the issue or to believe in the soundness and reasonableness of your position. You may choose any topic you wish for your paper, but it must be approved by the instructor.

*Skills:* After completing this assignment, you will be able to:

- select and focus a research topic.
- synthesize research materials
- establish a claim
- organize a research-based argument
- develop your own argument using evidence
- integrate and cite research sources

*Knowledge:* This assignment will give you knowledge about how to find, evaluate, and utilize information sources to create a sound and reasonable argument and convince others of your stance. You will need to know how to do this to be successful in many future courses as well as in many career fields.

Task: Using at least five academic-level secondary sources, you will write a research-based argument paper of 8 pages. Your paper should consist of an **argument** about your topic; it should not be an informative report. You may use more than 5 sources; non-academic sources, such as newspapers, magazines, and government documents may be used in addition to, but not in replacement of, the academic sources. Your final paper should be in APA style and include in-text citations as well as an APA-formatted reference page. The reference page does NOT count toward your 8 pages of text.

Criteria: A successful assignment will have the following characteristics:

- A clear thesis statement.
- Two to three sub-arguments to support your thesis statement.
- At least 5 academic-level sources that are used as evidence.
- A discussion of a potential counter-argument or rebuttal to your stance.
- The paper should be at least 8 pages, and include an introduction, a body and a conclusion.
- The paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, APA style, including in-text citations and a reference/works cited page.
- Submit your paper on WebCampus by **midnight on Friday, December 5, 2014.**
- Late assignments will not be accepted