**Research Essay**

**Requirements:**

* 1,500 words in length
* Four secondary sources are required
  + Mere Google is NOT ALLOWED
  + All Four sources MUST be an academic source – published book, journal, or magazine article. If there are any uncertainties about the chosen article/book, please ask me for approval to avoid any complications.
    - This source can be a book, magazine, or journal from the library or any article found on a Library Database (Academic Search Complete, etc.).
* From your secondary sources you need to have a mix of directly quotes and paraphrases/summaries at least once
  + Use of quotation marks is required for direct quotes only.
  + Proper documentation at the end of the direct quote and/or the paraphrase/summary as well as the end of the paper (works cited).
* Proper MLA format throughout.

**Purpose:**

The Research Essay is one of the most important essays during the entire semester. This essay is 1,500 words and includes the use of four secondary sources. The student must form an argument about a topic that has not proven to be completely agreeable/resolved on one side to this point in time. This paper will serve to show the student’s ability to support his/her ideas, and the student also is expected to present an intelligent and well-rounded argument. This paper reflects the student’s ability to write successfully in the academic community.

**Description:**

The argument essay should reflect a strong, well-supported idea that the student wishes to identify with. The essay should not be a biased, one-sided argument that would be similar to “ranting,” which is not taken seriously in the academic community. The essay should have an introductory paragraph that reflects the current status of the argument, preferably four points of argument that are well-supported by student comments as well as expert information, one point acknowledging the argument of the opposing side, and a solid conclusion that sums up the student’s argument as well as some sort of final comment or resolution on the topic. Make sure your topic is specific and focused, not too broad or general!