**The Career-based Issue Argument**

The act of research is the sign of an aware, mature, and educated mind. One of the guiding principles of using outside sources in your writing is that by interacting with thinking other than your own, you are entering into the discussion of ideas on paper. You are acknowledging that you are not only aware of others’ perspectives, whether they confirm or refute your own, but you are willing to become an integral part of the conversation. Not only will research-based assignments be required in many university-level courses you take, it is often a part of work outside the academic setting, whether it be in writing reports, making presentations, or discussing ideas you have in the workplace.

Notice that the title of this assignment includes the word *argument.* You will be required to take a position on a topic, not simply present information about a topic. Many students see research papers as exercises in accumulating information from outside sources and then pasting together the results of their search. The ways in which you perceive the role or function of outside sources is critical to the difference between a research and a researched paper. The use of outside sources should be viewed as being akin to inviting additional voices to enter the conversation. The principal concern should be your own ideas, and the outside sources should serve to support those ideas.

**Here’s the task:** *I want you to select an issue related to your intended field of study (business, education, medical, computer science, etc.). This does not require you to declare a college major; however, you probably have a good inclination of the general field you will pursue. For example, if you are interested in nursing, choose some issue that is being debated in the medical field. If you are interested in computer science, select an issue that is currently being debated in that field.*

*Take a position on this issue and using primary and secondary sources, make the argument that your position is valid and should be considered.*

**Guidelines:**

* **Length:** a minimum of **2500** words
* **Secondary Sources:** a minimum of **FIVE** credible sources must be cited
* **Format:** Proper MLA format (see examples in the textbook)

**Evaluation Criteria:**

* **Strong *Introduction*** (**interesting hook/clear thesis sentence**)
* **Strong *Conclusion* (re-states the thesis and closes smoothly)**
* **Appropriate and interesting *Diction***
* **Appropriate and interesting *Syntax***
* **Smooth *Transitions* between paragraphs**
* **Correct *Mechanics***
* **Effective use of Primary/Secondary Sources**
* **Proper MLA format**

**DUE DATES**

**Friday, April 10**:

**Submit an INTRODUCTION to the essay that includes a strong HOOK and**

**clear THESIS SENTENCE. As soon as I receive these, I will respond to each of**

**you via email offering an OK on the topic and tips for you as you progress into**

**the first draft. (15 POINTS)**

**Monday, April 20**

**An INITIAL DRAFT of the essay (with the Works Cited page) is due**

**by the end of the day on Friday, April 17. To receive full credit for this**

**draft, you must submit a minimum of 1500 words of text and a Works Cited**

**page. As soon as I receive these, I will respond to each of you via email offering**

**comments and tips to help you further develop your essay. (25 POINTS)**

**Wednesday, April 29**:

**The FINAL DRAFT is due by the end of the day on April 29.**

**This final draft must be the full 2500 words in length and include a Works**

**Cited page with a minimum of 5 sources. (200 POINTS)**