ENG100 ENGLISH COMPOSITION

ARGUMENT ESSAY RESEARCH WORKSHEET

YOUR TOPIC

Answer the following questions; they'll help you to focus your ideas and identify your purpose.

1. Which topic did you choose for your argument essay?

   _____

2. What is your position on your topic? Freewrite for 5–10 minutes to identify and clarify your position, and to narrow your topic to a manageable level.

3. Based on your freewriting, list 3 reasons why you have taken this position.

   Reason 1: _____

   Reason 2: _____

   Reason 3: _____

4. What specifically do you hope to persuade your audience to think and do?

   _____

5. Write a working thesis statement that includes your topic and your claim.

   _____

To review the requirements for a thesis statement, review the video Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Thesis Statements.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Review your freewriting to determine where you should begin your research and formulate 3–4 research questions to help you get started. Consider what you need to know about your topic, and what evidence you need to best support your position. For more information about formulating research questions, review Choosing and Refining Topics in your Information Literacy course.

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

GALE ACADEMIC ONEFILE SELECT

You are required to use OneFile to find at least 2 sources for your argument essay.

To familiarize yourself with this type of research, test these terms in the OneFile Basic Search:

- Presidential Election
- Democratic Candidates
- Republican Platform

First, notice that keywords and terms will populate in the search as you type, giving you more search options.

Second, notice on the right that you can choose your content type and limit your search in various ways, such as by publication, document type, and related subjects.

YOUR SEARCH

To effectively search OneFile, use your freewrite and research questions to brainstorm some key words or terms (no more than 1–3 words per search) to use in the Basic Search in OneFile. List your terms here.

Term 1: _____

Term 2: _____

Term 3: _____

Term 4: _____

Term 5: _____

TAKE NOTES TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

- Use an annotated bibliography and/or note cards to keep track of the sources that you find.
- Copy and paste the citations into a working bibliography.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Your essay is based on your position and reasons.
- No more than 25%–30% of your paper should be devoted to secondary source information.
- American Psychological Association (APA) citation and documentation format is required.