

In persuasive writing, writers take positions FOR or AGAINST an issue and then write an essay to convince the reader to agree or do something about it. In essay form, it is used to get your reader to accept your point of view. To win the reader over, skilled writers need more than their own opinions; they need FACTS and EXAMPLES to support their opinions, which means conducting solid research.

Your essays shall follow a traditional academic writing style. They shall have introductions, bodies where the argument is developed and supported, and conclusions. They will employ in-text citations and will use at least three different sources of research.

Objectives:

- ☼ **MLA FORMAT:** This assignment is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge of the research process using the MLA format.
- ☼ **RESEARCH:** Writing a research paper consists of COLLECTING RESEARCHED INFORMATION to develop/support a valid persuasive THESIS. The writer shall research factual data to create a unique original product that uses supporting evidence from various CREDIBLE sources to develop the topic.
- ☼ **RESOURCES:** All the resources that are necessary for this activity can be found on the Research page on coffinblog (<http://coffin.wordpress.com/research/>).
- ☼ **INDEX CARDS:** STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO USE INDEX CARDS FOR NOTE-TAKING. Indicate all quoted material by the use of quotation marks. Cite all paraphrased and summarized (précis) material. Be sure to record the necessary information on your note cards (so you can re-locate this material when asked). After you have finished note-taking, organize your materials according to sub-topic. This is a guide for your outline and writing of your first draft.
- ☼ **REVISION:** Before writing your final draft, do some critical self-editing. There will also be an in-class revision day.
- ☼ **SUBMISSION:** Place final copy, all index cards, photocopied notes, and rough draft in the manilla envelope provided. On the front of the envelope, please write your name and the date of submission. ALL STUDENTS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO E-MAIL A SECOND COPY OF THEIR PAPERS TO COFFIN FOR HIS RECORDS (iecoffin@edu.pe.ca). Failure to do so will result in an incomplete grade.
- ☼ **ASSESSMENT:** Students will be assessed on the RESEARCH PROCESS as a whole as well as on the FINAL PRODUCT. That means students shall be required to meet deadlines throughout the entire unit of study.

Assignment Type: Major
 Value: 15% of Course
 Type of Paper: Persuasive Research Essay
 Topic: Student Choice (your own choice or from an list on coffinblog)
 Audience: Coffin
 Purpose: To Persuade the Audience
 Sources: 3 - 5 REPUTABLE sources (one MUST be non-Internet); must be recorded in References
 In-Text: A MINIMUM of 6 in-text citations must be formatted within the paper.
 ☼ At least one direct quote.
 ☼ At least one paraphrase.
 ☼ At least one summary.
 Length: 1000 - 1500 words
 Final Due Date: December 15 (although portions are due throughout the process)

Rationale:

Research Process

This essay is about the RESEARCH PROCESS and the FINAL PRODUCT. Throughout, students shall conference with Coffin during class time where feedback shall be provided and each research element (topic choice, thesis statement, note-taking, rough drafts, outline, and use of class time/attendance shall be evaluated.)

Final Product (a final package to be submitted at the end of the process)

On the final due date, students shall submit specified components in an envelope which shall be corrected outside class time. Each component shall be taught and practised in the classroom prior to the submission date. Handouts and notes shall also be provided to clarify information.

Valuable Websites:

During the entire process, students must become very familiar with coffinblog's research page:

<http://coffin.wordpress.com/research/>

This is a valuable resource for hints on persuasive writing:

http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba/persuasive_writing.htm

English 621 Persuasive Research Activity - Brief Explanation of Components (Process and Final Product)

<u>Process Component</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
<u>Introduction:</u> Essay introduced: Lessons include: Directions for Preparing Formal Papers, Thesis Statements.	April 14
<u>Topic:</u> Each student must have his/her choice of topic and position on the topic of choice cleared with Coffin by this date.	April 16
<u>Tentative Thesis Statement x 2:</u> Each student must have two possible thesis statement (which may change with research) written, discussed, and approved by Coffin.	April 20
<u>Research Sources and Source Card:</u> Each student must submit his/her sources (3 - 5 sources) completed in proper MLA Works Cited format on a sheet of paper.	April 23
<u>Tentative Outline:</u> Each student must have a detailed essay outline for his/her essay completed in proper MLA format (using the model from notes).	April 30
<u>In-Class Revision:</u> In-class revision of rough drafts (including outlines) of essays. Essay will be read by no less than three classmates. Compulsory.	May 11
<u>Research Using Research Cards:</u> Each student is required to use research cards and have completed (20 - 30) in correct format (handout in coffinblog research).	Ongoing
<u>Class Work:</u> Each student shall be assessed on in-class productivity, efficiency, and time management - as observed by Coffin during the process.	Ongoing
<u>Final Product Component</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
<u>Title Page:</u> A completed formal title page as outlined in the Directions for Preparing Formal Papers (handout and on coffinblog research).	May 13
<u>Final Product Outline:</u> This should not be the same one that you previously submitted. It must reflect your revisions and/or discovery of new information.	May 13
<u>Final Product Abstract:</u> A 100-word précis which will serve as a quick guide to your essay. Be sure to include the most important sections of the paper.	May 13
<u>Written Introduction:</u> A clear and concise introductory paragraph(s) containing a well-formulated thesis. All quotes/citations must be in MLA format.	May 13
<u>Essay Body:</u> Topic developed in a well-formatted progressive manner which supports the thesis. MLA format for quotes/citations.	May 13
<u>Written Conclusion:</u> Each student must bring essay to a concise conclusion reminding the reader of thesis and leaving a sense of completion to the essay.	May 13
<u>In-Text Citations:</u> Papers must contain appropriate support for arguments gained through careful reading/research and cited properly within the text.	May 13
<u>References Page:</u> A complete References page, alphabetized in proper MLA format as outlined in the Directions for Preparing Formal Papers.	May 13
<u>Research Cards:</u> All research cards must be included in the final package. If they aren't submitted and organized by sub-topic, essays are incomplete.	May 13
<u>Pagination:</u> Correct pagination must be applied throughout the entire paper (as outlined in the Directions for Preparing Formal Papers).	May 13
<u>Rough Copy:</u> The original rough copy which was submitted for peer revision must be included in the final envelope.	May 13
<u>E-Copy:</u> A copy of the final essay (including References page), submitted via e-mailed attachment or on USB drive/CD.	May 13

Research

- ⚙ We have booked only a few research days (no more than three and perhaps only two) in the library for research purposes.
- ⚙ Use them wisely and remember that your research should not be limited to the Internet.
- ⚙ As you are required to obtain at least one non-Internet source, make use of the resources available in the school library (including Mrs Pendergast, who is the most valuable resource you can consult).
- ⚙ You are fully expected to work on this essay outside of class time as well (especially since - in the coming years - you will be given absolutely no class time to research and write).
- ⚙ If you think this is unfair, please see the Complaint Department, located on the fourth floor.
- ⚙ Our booked days:
 - April 21 & 22 (half of you will remain in class while the other half hits the library);
 - April 28
 - May 5

Ongoing Process Assessment		
Due Date:	Criteria Assessed	Value
April 16	Topic Choice	1 Point
April 20	Thesis Statement x 2	2 Points
April 23	Sources Revealed (see rules above)	3 Points
April 30	Tentative Essay Outline	2 Points
Ongoing	Using Index Cards Throughout	4 Points
Ongoing	Attendance/Use of Class Time	4 Points
May 11	Rough Copy Revision	4 Points
Ongoing Assessment Total:		20 Points

Final Product General Assessment (Detailed Essay Rubric Available Online)		
Due Date	Criteria Assessed	Value
May 13	Title Page	1 Point
May 13	Pagination	1 Point
May 13	Final Product Abstract	2 Points
May 13	Final Product Outline	4 Points
May 13	Written Introduction	4 Points
May 13	Body of Essay	16 Points
May 13	Written Conclusion	4 Points
May 13	In-Text Citations	2 Points
May 13	References Page	2 Points
May 13	Mechanics	8 Points
May 13	Index Cards	6 Points
Final Product Assessment Total:		50 Points

Lessons/Practices During the Process:

- ✿ Persuasive Writing
- ✿ Writing Thesis Statements
- ✿ Research Cards for Note Taking
- ✿ Using In-Text Citations
- ✿ Developing a Research Outline
- ✿ Works Cited and MLA Format
- ✿ Revisiting Transitional Devices
- ✿ Avoiding Plagiarism: Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing
- ✿ Revision/Proofreading

The entire process shall be worth 70 points and 15 percent of your final grade. Please follow the directions and make sure you do good work.

2009 - ENGLISH 621 RESEARCH PAPER CALENDAR					
TIMELINE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1 ➡	April 13 Easter Monday	April 14 Introduction	April 15	April 16 Topics Chosen	April 17 In School PD Day
WEEK 2 ➡	April 20 Thesis Statements	April 21 Library Research (½ in library; ½ in class)	April 22 Library Research (½ in library; ½ in class)	April 23 Sources Due	April 24 Sources Returned
WEEK 3 ➡	April 27	April 28 Library Research	April 29	April 30 Rough Outline Due	May 1 Provincial PD Day
WEEK 4 ➡	May 4	May 5 Library Research	May 6	May 7	May 8
WEEK 5 ➡	May 11 Peer Revision	May 12	May 13 Good Copy Due	May 14	May 15

To avoid confusion, make certain that the final product is submitted containing the following:

- ✓ Submit printed Final Copy (in MLA format, paginated, and containing an abstract, outline, proper in-text citations, and References).
- ✓ Submit rough copy.
- ✓ E-mail attached good copy to iecoffin@edu.pe.ca
- ✓ Provide Research Index Cards (15-20), organized by sub-topic
- ✓ The standard \$20.00 Coffin Correcting Services fee ☺

For a look at the expanded assessment rubric, click on the following link:

<http://users.eastlink.ca/~icoffin/621assessment.htm>