

Final Researched Argument Paper (FRAP)

Throughout the semester, we have focused our class discussions and readings around issues of gender, race, and sexuality. For your final paper, you must find a research topic related to issues of gender, race, and/or sexuality and the way it is depicted in some sort of media (i.e., a written text, website, movie, tv show, music, etc...). You may work with a public intellectual, but it is not required. I would prefer that you pick both a topic and text about which you are interested. This paper requires that you research both an issue and a media representation. You must find a topic where you can conduct scholarly research and propose a creative argument concerning that topic. Finally, you will draft your major research paper integrating credible sources, rhetorical/argumentative strategies, and organizing a concise paper supported by evidence. In the end, you must do what many of the writers we have read this semester have done—effectively argue a perspective while integrating analysis and extensive research.

Remember, this is an analytical paper and should follow academic argument format. You should have a brief introduction to your topic followed by a clear thesis statement (no later than the end of the first paragraph) with an ultimately suggests statement. Next, you will integrate a framework paragraph that defines your key terms and gives context regarding your topic. The body paragraphs of the paper should follow the format we've been practicing all semester long in the Argument Paragraph Assignment. Think of the structure of your overall paragraphs like a staircase where each step is needed before you can proceed to the next step. Each paragraph should have one main point that builds on the previous paragraph and builds up to the next—exactly like stairs in a staircase. The paper should end with a clear conclusion that does more than simply summarize the major points of your paper; it should lead your reader to continue to think critically about your subject.

Evaluation

You must meet ALL of the following minimum requirements to PASS the paper:

- A clear argument, which is clearly stated through a thesis statement in the early pages of the paper.
- A researchable cultural issue that is presented through secondary research in a partition paragraph.
- A primary media item that is analyzed in terms of your cultural issue/framework.
- Each paragraph has a central point, which is supported by specific evidence from primary and/or secondary sources.
- Each body paragraph follows the five part paragraph structure outlined in the APA assignment sheet.
- Each body paragraph's central point supports the thesis statement/overall argument of the paper.
- A strong opening that draws your reader in.
- A formal and objective/scholarly tone which avoids using "you", "we", and "I" (outside of introductory paragraph(s)).
- A conclusion that leads your reader into thinking broadly about your topic and its importance rather than simply summarizing your entire argument.
- Research from multiple academic (journal articles and scholarly books) sources is integrated in your paper.
- Analysis of your primary text(s) is integrated into your paper.
- MLA formatted in-text/parenthetical citations for ALL quoted AND paraphrased information.
- Works Cited Page in MLA format.
- The paper is at least 8 FULL pages of text with an additional Works Cited page.
- The paper is formatted according to course requirements (see page 2 of syllabus).
- Clear syntax. Sentences are concise. Ideas are articulated as clear as possible.
- Proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and organization conventions are observed.
- Meets the more detailed requirements outlined in the Rubric

Length: 8-10 pages, **excluding** Works Cited page, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1" margins

Timeline:

November 17, 2016: Paper Introduction, Framework Paragraph, & Outline Due

November 29, 2016: Next 3 Paragraphs of Paper Due

December 6, 2016: Final Paper Due with all outlining and drafting