The main purpose of compiling your portfolio and writing your cover letter, then, is to critically reflect on your own college writing as you assess your progress with the competencies for this class. The goal is to gain a better awareness of your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer as well as demonstrate that you know how to explain your own rhetorical choices as a writer responding to the demands of specific writing situations. Doing so will help you take these important skills and processes with you as you continue your college and professional careers.

While this is the first component of the final portfolio, it should be the part you compose. In this letter, you will reflect on your progress, consider your own rhetorical choices as a writer, and articulate your future goals as a writer. You will also discuss your progress with the course learning outcomes - demonstrating how your essays have met the assignment requirements as well as the targeted learning outcomes identified in the first three units. Your cover letter should be 2–3 double-spaced pages in length.

Your portfolio should include:

 • Cover Letter 2–3 double-spaced pages in length

 • Rhetorical Analysis draft, revision, and author’s note **(PLEASE NOTE: You are not expected to revise this essay, though you may do so if you would like to. We ask for this essay, even though you revised it for the Midterm Portfolio, because it is a complex essay related to your research project, and helps us better see your progress in the class.)**

 • Research Review draft, revision, and author’s note

 • Researched Argument revision and author’s note

 • Research Log, (Make sure to include the 5–10 sources that appear in your final researched argument essay.)

“*Chinese City Orders Taxi Drivers to Remove Tattoos to Spare Women and Children*”

By Tiffany May, Sep. 22, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/22/world/asia/china-tattoos-taxi-drivers.html>

＃**1Rhetorical Analysis**

**Overview**

For this essay, you will think more carefully about the rhetorical purpose of one of the sources for your chosen topic. As such, you will select one of the scholarly argumentative sources from your research and write an argumentative rhetorical analysis with textual evidence. That is, you will make an evaluation about the rhetorical effectiveness of the author, and you will support that evaluation with evidence from the text.

**Context**

As you discovered in the last assignment, in order to have a clear understanding about the multiple, credible perspectives on your topic, you must critically analyze both the perspective and the source. With this assignment you will focus on the rhetorical effectiveness of one of your sources. How effective are the rhetorical strategies employed by your author(s)? It is important to remember that for this essay you are not so much analyzing or summarizing what they are saying, rather how they are saying it. This is part of developing your critical reading skills and your ability to identify different kinds of texts.

**Writing Purpose**

The purpose of reading and writing rhetorically is to think carefully about the author’s purpose, audience, genre, and stylistic choices. The following questions should help you start to think about the author’s rhetorical effectiveness. Please note: Do not try to address all of these issues in your essay—you won’t have a narrow enough focus. These questions are intended to help get you in the right frame of mind.>

 • What is the author’s purpose in writing the text? Provide evidence from the text that indicates what the author’s purpose is.

 • Who is the intended audience? Identify a textual feature that communicates the intended readership of the piece.

 • What change does the author hope to make in the audience’s view of the topic? Provide an explanation for your assessment.

 • What is the genre and how does that genre define/limit readership, style, and purpose? Identify specific textual features that communicate genre and its effect on the author’s message.

 • What persuasive strategies does the author use?

 ◦ Methods of reasoning

 ◦ Organization of ideas

 ◦ Amount of and kinds of evidence

 ◦ Selection/omission of details

 ◦ Diction/language choices

 ◦ Choice of voice or perspective ("I" or "They")

 ◦ Choice of tone (attitude)

**Conventions**

In this formal essay, you will write a thesis that analyzes the rhetorical choices of the author.

 • Your essay will incorporate ample evidence from the text to support that claim.

 • Your essay should follow the guidelines for MLA style for in-text citations and the Works Cited page.

 • Your audience is the members of this class.

 • Your essay should be approximately **3–4** MLA-formatted pages (900–1200 words).

 • Your essay should include a copy of the article you selected.

 • Your essay should include an author's note at the beginning.

＃2Research Review

**Overview**

The next step in your research process is to carefully gather, read, analyze, and synthesize these sources as part of a research review. This process of synthesizing research should be done thoroughly and thoughtfully because it is a crucial part of the preparation for your final, argumentative research paper. You should identify the different viewpoints concerning your issue, and you should try to represent the perspectives fairly. Your research review will analyze and synthesize the research you have found on your topic (you should include 5–7 sources).

**Context**

Summarizing the way an author presents their findings is necessary and important because it informs your audience that you are knowledgeable about this subject and you know the research well. Synthesizing what you have learned from your various sources also shows that you understand how to see the “big picture” about your issue and know the complexity and scope of the conversation you are entering. The research review will strengthen your critical reading skills, requiring you to pay close attention to details and then effectively convey your understanding of a body of knowledge in essay form.

**Writing Purpose**

The purpose of a research review is to identify the key issues and perspectives within the information you have gathered, show how these issues and perspectives are related to one another, and develop a coherent overall idea about what your research reveals about the conversation surrounding your chosen topic.

**Conventions**

When writing your research review, you should:

 • Your essay should clearly identify the different viewpoints surrounding your issue.

 • Your essay should be organized around those viewpoints, rather than organized by your sources.

 • Your essay should correctly incorporate borrowed material from the 5–7 sources you are synthesizing, following proper MLA citation rules.

 • Your essay should contain a minimum of 5–10 varied and credible sources that you have already documented with your Research Log. There may be some source adjustment, however.

 • Your essay should be approximately 5–6 MLA formatted pages (1500–1800 words)

 • Your essay should include an author's note at the beginning.

＃3Researched Argument

**Overview**

Now that you have read and analyzed a substantial amount about your research question, you should be ready to enter into the dialogue yourself and formulate an answer. The researched argument paper should establish your position within the conversation you synthesized in the Research Review.

**Context**

An effective researched argument does more than just relate information—and it goes beyond simply summarizing and reviewing articles and/or stringing together a bunch of quotes from sources. Instead, you need to put forth your own opinion—expressed as a clear claim supported by valid reasons—and incorporate your synthesized research to create a cohesive, articulate argument intended to persuade a target audience who is also participating in the conversation.

**Writing Purpose**

The goal of this essay is to persuade your readers to see the legitimacy of your point of view as a contribution to the conversation you synthesized in the Research Review. Your audience needs to accept your position as valid, even if they don’t necessarily agree with it.

**Conventions**

Because the purpose of this essay is to persuade your readers to agree with your claim, your researched argument should:

 • Establish the context of that conversation and the importance of the topic under consideration.

 • Address a particular audience of readers invested in the topic and are possibly already participating in the conversation you’ve entered.

 • Use the most effective rhetorical approach to reach your intended audience. Such an approach might include any or all of the following:

 ◦ Convincing your audience to consider the validity of your position as a valuable contribution to the conversation

 ◦ Broadening your audience’s perception of the topic by providing them with new information geared at shaping their understanding

 ◦ Clarifying your audience’s understanding of the topic by taking their vague or common view of the subject in order to make it a more accurate reflection of the issue under discussion

 • Declare your position on the issue by making a claim.

 • Synthesizes ideas from multiple sources.

 • Develop your argument by supporting your claim with evidence.

 • Consider alternative positions/counterarguments within the conversation.

 • Conclude by tying together your key points and providing readers with ideas for further consideration.

 • Your essay should be approximately 5–6 MLA formatted pages in length (1500–1800 words). If you find it difficult to write 6 pages on your topic (or if you find it difficult to stay within 8 pages), then you should consider rethinking your topic and/or the main argument. The points and details you provide to support your perspective will require this much attention and writing.

 • Your essay should include an author's note at the beginning.

create a descriptive outline for your own draft of your argumentative research paper. （one page）1. what is the focus of the paragraph-what details does it include 2. what’s the purpose of your paragraph -how will it advance your argument

＃4Research Log

3pages

Looking through credible newspaper articles can be a great way to "prime the pump" for issues you might like to explore as your research topic. In a later assignment, you will be asked to search for more academic sources, but for this assignment, please go to the newspaper sites listed below to start browsing articles that might suggest a topic you have a great deal of interest and curiosity about. Please choose medium to long articles that have some good detail and content to them, rather than short articles. (You can also access other reputable online English newspapers that you know of. If you do so, please email me the link to the newspaper and a short statement about why you think the source is reputable, and I will add it to our list of links if I agree that it is a good source.)

Use your research topic to complete the following steps (please cite all sources in MLA format):

 1 Using Academic Search Complete (Ebsco), locate two more articles about your topic (or as close to it as possible). What do you think these articles could teach you that the others couldn’t? Explain.

 2 Using LexisNexis Academic, locate two more articles about your topic. What could you learn from these articles?

 3 Using Project Muse or JSTOR, locate 1-2 scholarly articles about your topic. As articles in Project Muse and JSTOR are scholarly, what information about your topic would be most important to locate from this database?

 4 Go into your campus library’s “Catalogue” and locate 1-2 books that might provide you information about topic. Why would these books be helpful for your research?

 5 Are there any other places you could go to find information about your topic? List the possibilities, and explain how they might be helpful in providing answers to your research question.

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