

choice. This will be an opportunity for you to stand up and make a claim and support that claim with all means of persuasion.

Please note: this assignment is quite different from Writing Project 1, "Responding to a Written Text." When responding, we critique that target text; when arguing, we focus on presenting our own argument and its supports. I would strongly recommend that you write on ONE of the topics that we have read and discussed in this class, which include ideas on education, human mind, government, and science. In each of the articles we have discussed, the author has well expressed his or her position on the topic, even though their writings do not belong to the academic genre. You may write a paper to explore that topic further, whether to argue for or against the existent arguments, or to express your new idea on it. You should form your own argument and can use their ideas as your supports. Try to avoid clichéd topics like gun control, abortion, drinking age, and so forth, unless you have something new to say. You have full freedom as well as full responsibility to design and complete your project.

To make your argument persuasive, you must be very knowledgeable about existent arguments on that topic (i.e., you should know who has already written what on it, thus comes in the need for search or re-search), and you are capable of orchestrating relevant rhetorical means to develop your paper.

Your WP2 must be an academic paper, that is, it must follow closely the 5 conventions discussed by Alexander and Barber.

Suggested (i.e., not prescribed) Steps:

1. Choose your topic: you may choose any topic we have discussed in this class, or another interesting topic discussed in another class that you are taking or have taken, or a topic that is important to your current or future profession. You need to narrow down your topic to the extent that you can form your own position or argument, and you have adequate supports. Your argument should be arguable and supportable.
2. Take your position: You need to know what other thinkers have said about this topic and to figure out what YOU want to say about this topic. Writing a clear thesis statement to express your position is crucial (see "thesis statements" in our textbook). Your thesis should be one good sentence that expresses your argument and your major reasons. You need to modify your thesis till you can fully support it with your reasons, textual evidence, examples, observations, and so forth. You should use what you have gained from doing the "Thesis Writing Exercise."
3. Use outside sources: any idea, concept, example, data, etc. that is NOT your own is considered an "outside" source. You may conduct research, personal interviews, etc. to collect outside sources. Your paper should have at least 5 outside sources. Using credible outside sources is crucial. Do not use an article that does not have author names attached to it. Using scholarly or scientific articles is required. Ask any UC librarian for assistance. You can certainly also use relevant personal experiences, observations, and personal interviews to support your position.
4. Use formal language: When writing the first draft, write in the way you feel comfortable with, but later you need to revise or editing your paper. As your audience of this paper would be professionals or thinkers with ample knowledge about the topic, using your language with clarity and precision is important. You may use what you have gained from the Clear Writing Exercise. You can certainly use "I" in the paper, but should avoid using "you," which may sound condescending to your audience in a formal essay like this, and in many cases "you" is an empty signifier. Prior to submitting your paper, please check if your paper is mechanically correct (in spelling, grammar, punctuation, organization, etc.).
5. Organize your paper
  - a. Give your paper a good title: a good title should indicate your topic and your position.
  - b. Write the opening paragraph: You may employ what Michael Austin has said to engage your audience and to present your position. It is better to place your thesis statement somewhere in your opening paragraph. If the thesis statement is done excellently, you will earn at least 50% of the grade points for your WP2. Please color your thesis before you submit your paper.
  - c. Write the body of your paper: This should be in a few paragraphs. Each paragraph should have a Topic Sentence, usually at the beginning of each paragraph. A good topic sentence has two functions: to give the paragraph a center and to connect that paragraph to your main argument. Each paragraph should present ONE of your reasons or ideas that support your paper's main argument, followed by examples and details. You may include important data, examples, and reasons other authors have presented; you may use your knowledge, expertise, personal experiences, and examples to support your thesis statement. You should always keep in mind: this is your essay, and your readers expect to hear what YOU have to say about this topic. All things should be used for the sole purpose of supporting your position.
6. Document Outside Sources: You must follow closely the MLA conventions to do in-text citations (adding quotation marks and page numbers to your quotations), and to add a Works Cited section near the end of your paper to list alphabetically all the outside sources you have cited.

**Avoid Plagiarism:** If the Canvas system finds your paper has 33% identical language to a paper in its database, your paper will be considered as a plagiarized one. Plagiarism is not tolerated at UC.