

CGW 4UI – Canadian and World Issues, University Preparation

Independent Study Unit

Introduction and Rationale of ISU:

The purpose of the Independent Study Unit is to carry out an investigation into an issue or problem of a global and geographic nature. You will choose a topic, conduct research, determine a thesis, produce an argumentative essay, and present your ideas to the class. Your report will argue the merits of one side of an issue or problem, however, you will also be expected to explain or disprove other viewpoints/perspectives related to your topic. There is also a seminar component where you will be required to present the major points of your research to the class.

Stages Involved in the ISU:

Below is a chart that outlines the stages of the Independent Study Unit. Some of the components will be completed during class time (i.e. lessons, conferences, peer editing, presentations...). The bulk of the ISU will be completed during your own time.

Stage	Stage Name	Description	Process
1.	Proposal – Topic Selection and Preliminary Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Selection – see list • Preliminary Research on 2 Perspectives (2 sources) • Complete Proposal Sheet Questions provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative • Student-teacher conference
2.	Creating your thesis and essay subtopics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis – must be an argumentative essay - follow instructions provided • Subtopics – topics for your 3 body paragraphs and an explanation of how it relates to your thesis • Use the template provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative • Peer conferences • Student-teacher conference
3.	Gathering and Reviewing Credible Research Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate credible and valid academic research from sources that will support your topic and thesis • This is the major bulk of your research • Must have minimum 8 credible sources • Use the template provided for each source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative
4.	Rough Copy of Argumentative Research Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce topic, state thesis, discuss 3 body paragraphs • Use the structure for essay writing that was provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative • Peer editing conferences
5.	Final Copy of Research Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Report – Argumentative Style • Make sure to consult all specific instructions for formatting and writing style expectations – see instructions and rubric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative • Worth 15% of the Final 30% Mark
6.	Seminar Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minute student led seminar presentation related to information of topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative