

CGW4U ISU Stage 4 –
Rough Copy of Argumentative Research Report

Stage 4 Due Date: _____

In Class Peer Editing Date: _____

Requirements for the Final ISU Paper:

- Your research paper should be approximately 8 pages in length
- Your topic must be relevant to our course of study and be presented from a geographical point of view.
 - Geographical theories
 - Charts/Graphs related to geographical trends
 - Current geographical events
- You must use graphics and analytical techniques appropriate for a university-stream geography course.
- Format for the writing of the paper will follow the “argumentative essay” style.
- Make sure to include a great deal of credible research to support your thesis – as well, make sure to include various other perspectives.
- References must be varied and current. At least eight (8) different reference sources will be cited and placed in a proper format – throughout your paper and in your works cited.
- Consult the summative rubric before completing the final copy of the project.

HOW TO WRITE A FORMAL ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Introductory Paragraph:

Begin with a general statement about your topic. This first sentence should catch the reader’s attention. Follow up with your thesis statement. It should be clear, concise and to the point. Follow this up with a 3-4 sentence body, highlighting the areas (sub-topics) that you will discuss in the body of your essay, to support your thesis. Finish up with a concluding statement. You may need to include any general background information relevant to the understanding of your topic in the introduction paragraph that would be necessary for your audience to understand before reading the remainder of your report.

Body Paragraphs:

Each body paragraph or sub-topic paragraph explains the 3 areas discussed in your introductory paragraph. Each paragraph should have the following format: begin with an introductory sentence stating the area to be discussed (or use a sub-topic title). Follow this with a 3-5 sentence Body explaining this area and how it supports your thesis. Be sure to provide specific support (facts, data, observations, etc.) and take nothing for granted (i.e. assume that your reader knows nothing about this topic). Finish up with a concluding sentence. The order of your body paragraphs is up to you, but it is a good idea to structure them so that your strongest argument is in the last paragraph.

Concluding Paragraph: Begin with an introduction sentence that restates your thesis. This should be a strong statement. Follow this up with a body of 3 – 5 sentences that summarize each of your arguments in the body of the essay. Finish with a concluding sentence that explains why your thesis is relevant or important. Remember that you should not be introducing new information (that is information that you have not already discussed in the body of your essay) in the concluding paragraph.

Important Points of Formal Essay Style:

- ✓ Avoid the use of slang or popular expressions.
- ✓ Avoid using contractions such as “can’t”, “I’ll”, “won’t”, “it’ll” etc.
- ✓ Do not use personal or informal expressions i.e. “I think”, “in my opinion” etc.
- ✓ Be very clear and to the point. Leave no doubt in the reader’s mind about what you’re saying.
- ✓ Properly source all work – both direct quote and paraphrased information

Peer Editing Worksheet

Author: _____

Editor: _____

Introduction

- a) Statement of thesis
- b) Identification of sub-topics

Body/Development

- a) Quality and clarity of ideas
- b) Logical development of thesis
- c) Relevance of ideas and evidence to thesis
- d) Paragraphing (topic sentence, details, closing sentence)
- e) Coherence (Does each paragraph flow into the next?)
- f) Use of quotations

Conclusion

- a) Summary of main points
- b) Restatement of thesis

Documentation

- a) Have references/quotes been properly cited?
- b) Have sources been properly recorded in bibliography?

Mechanics

- a) Sentence structure
- b) Spelling
- c) Punctuation

Comments:

The major strengths of this report are:

The major weaknesses of this report are:

Suggestions for improvement: