ENGL 1301 Assignment Guide
Argument Research Synthesis
LSC-University Park Library

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Contact Your Instructor</th>
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| Write an **Argument Research Synthesis** essay of 6-10 pages (including Works Cited page) on a topic of your choice. It should be double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman font, with 12-point character size and one inch margins. Include a thesis statement and support your arguments with specific examples. Be sure to research a minimum of 5 sources from the LSCS Databases.  
✓ Find and use convincing evidence to support your claim.  
✓ Provide **SPECIFIC EXAMPLES** from your sources and explain their relevance to your position.  
✓ Examine one opposing argument in detail before presenting your rebuttal.  

**Example Thesis statement:** In the best interest of consumers, all genetically modified foods should be plainly labeled since they represent one of the most serious threats to human health and the environment.  

Refer to your instructor’s assignment handout for complete instructions and information related to this assignment, including the writing process, organization of your paper, style, evaluation criteria, additional resources, important deadlines, due dates, and other requirements.

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<th>Banned Topics</th>
<th>Use keywords to improve your search for specific information: GMOs, Biotech food, food safety, agricultural research, organic farming.</th>
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<td><strong>Your instructor has asked that you do NOT use the following topics:</strong> Euthanasia, gun control, school uniforms, immigration, Creationism vs. Darwinism, legalization of marijuana, abortion, death penalty/capital punishment, standardized testing, war in Iraq, gay marriage, prayer in public schools, stem cell research, cloning, alternative energy sources, global warming, oil crisis, war on terrorism</td>
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## Databases

**Academic Search Complete**  Full text of articles from journals, magazines, and newspapers, plus image collections.

**CQ Researcher**  An excellent source for full text examples of original, comprehensive reporting and analysis on issues in the news.

**Issues and Controversies**  Full-text articles from different points of view on important issues in today’s news, plus statistics and images.

**Opposing Viewpoints**  Full text on controversial social issues from books, statistical reports, and news publications.

**NBC Higher Learning Ed**  Access over 10,000 video clips from current events to newsreels dating back to the 1920s from celebrated NBC news programs.

**Films On Demand**  (Streaming Videos on Demand) High-quality, educational streaming video from companies such as Films for the Humanities, BBC, and PBS.

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**KEEP in mind that you are writing an argumentative paper. Look for articles that represent both sides of the argument. You will strengthen your own paper by showing both sides.**

When accessing the databases from home, you will be asked to enter your 14 digit barcode number located on the back of your student ID card.

## EBooks

The library has over 45,000 eBooks available to you for research purposes. You can access them through the **Library Catalog** or directly from the **eBook Collection** in EBSCO. Try to select keywords that will help you to find specific information to support your argument. Look at the copyright dates to make sure you get the newest information.

**Google Scholar**  has books and articles online.

## Internet

If you use the internet, be sure and use the criteria below to evaluate your findings. Find reputable sites – like organizations, universities, and government sites first.

1. **Accuracy** – The information should be researched and show proof that it has been.
2. **Source** – Who wrote the information? Look at the domain; edu. gov. org. net. are valid research sources.
3. **Authority** – What are the author’s credentials? (Don’t quote from another student’s paper.)
4. **Coverage** – Does the page have the information you need for your research?
5. **Objectivity** – If a work is biased, acknowledge it - then make sure that you present BOTH sides of the issue.
1. Use the MLA paper guide or online MLA Guide. There is more information on this page that will prove helpful.
2. Use the Writing Center.
4. About Student Success in Angel is a short course on study skills, research, using technology and more.

Chat line is open when the library is open. Contact us. Reference Librarian: 281-401-5390. Email at UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu