

ENGL 106 / INTRODUCTORY COMPOSITION

PROJECT 2: RESEARCHED ARGUMENT



200 points, 20% of final grade

partial draft due: Wednesday, 11/8, by 11:59pm Eastern Time

peer responses due: Friday, 11/10, by 11:59pm Eastern Time

completed draft due: Monday, 11/13, by 11:59pm Eastern Time

final paper due: Monday, 11/20, by 11:59pm Eastern Time

OVERVIEW

For this project, you will use scholarly and popular sources to construct a researched argument about a digital tool, technology, or space that's connected to your major, or to another discipline that interests you. You will conduct secondary research, using Purdue Library databases and other digital tools (such as Google Scholar) on a topic related to technology and your personal or professional interest. You will assess, summarize, and synthesize sources to make a case to a community of like-minded peers.

GETTING STARTED

Digital tools and technologies affect all professions in 2017: from engineers, to teachers, to lawyers, to farmers. How have advancements in technology affected your major? If you are still exploring different fields and careers, what types of technologies are used in a discipline that you are considering? What innovations are on the horizon? Here are some examples to get you thinking...

- **Agribusiness.** The use of drones in farming can drastically decrease the amount of pesticide runoff, while maximizing crop yields (see <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/601935/six-ways-drones-are-revolutionizing-agriculture/>)
- **Animal Science.** GPS and other satellite technologies are critical to animal behavior research, as well as conservation efforts (see <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/05/space-birdwatching/526044/>)

- **Education.** Schools need to consider the importance of cybersecurity, to protect student personal data, as well as academic integrity. Large-scale DDoS attacks are the latest threat (see <https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2017/03/school-it-leaders-share-strategies-defending-against-ddos-attacks>)
- **Health & Medicine.** Online medicine or eMedicine can help close the gap in mental health treatment (see https://purdue-primo-prod.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=TN_medline26543912&context=PC&vid=PURDUE&search_scope=everything&tab=default_tab&lang=en_US)
- **History.** The massive expansion of the auto industry in the early 20th century mirrors the rise of internet tech in the early 21st century; thus, we can learn critical lessons about the future of technology from the Big Three's (GM, Ford, and Chrysler) decline (see <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/05/silicon-valley-big-three/527838/>)
- **Political Science.** Social media has fundamentally changed the way we engage in, talk about, and think about politics (see <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/10/25/the-tone-of-social-media-discussions-around-politics/>)

Your task with this paper is to research technological application(s) in your field, in order to create an argument to colleagues and peers. Like these examples, your argument for this paper should move beyond a simple assessment of “X technology is good for Y profession,” or “the use of the internet is bad for Z business.” You’re making an argument to a learned community of learned peers in a specific field or discipline here: an academic approach asks you to be careful, methodical, and measured in your conclusions. You need to be attentive to making sure that your logic is sound, and that your evidence supports what you claim. This requires you to think about counter-evidence and refutation.

You will be creating an extended argument (5–7 pages) over the course of three weeks for this project. Consequently, you must select a topic and design a question that you can extensively research online during this time frame. You will also be extending the work of this essay for your third writing project, so pick a topic that you can stick with until the end of the semester.

WHAT YOU’LL TURN IN

Your final paper for this project will be 1500–2000 words (5–7 pages), typed in 12 point font and double spaced with 1” margins. You may include visuals to aid you in your argument (charts, tables, data visualization, images, etc.), but remember that your visuals should mirror your overall (scholarly, formal) approach). Expect to be graded on...

- How well you satisfy the goals and purposes identified in your SoP and reflective memo
- Synthesis of at least 7 sources, including at least 4 sources from the Purdue Libraries’ databases
- The strength of the evidence (e.g., individual experience, anecdotes, personal knowledge, etc.) used to substantiate your claims
- How well the researched argument responds to the needs of your identified audience
- The organization, arrangement, and structure of the work
- Your explanation of your writing process and rhetorical choices in the reflective memo
- Proper formatting and proofreading of your work to meet audience expectations

WP2 meets ICaP Learning Outcomes 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 2.d, 2.e, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 4.b, 4.c, 5.a, 5.b, 5.d, 5.e, 6.a; for more details, see <http://icap.rhetorike.org/outcomes>.