This semester, we have explored many facets of “nature” and “humanity.” As the culmination of this course, you will have the opportunity to connect some of these concepts from your perspective. You will be expected to refer to course content while also contributing new sources to the discussion. Through this exploration, you will extend on the ideas presented in class by exploring what has piqued your interest and synthesizing these ideas in an informative, and possibly persuasive, writing.

**` 8 pages (2000 words)**

In order to successfully complete this assignment, you will do the following:

* present a ***logical***, ***complex*** and ***compelling*** argument on a particular topic relating to the topics covered in this course
* Cite a variety of sources, including ***scholarly sources*** which consider a variety of viewpoints - literature studied this semester must be referenced
* cite sources ***purposefull*y,** ***ethically***and ***accurately***
* use MLA format to create a Works Cited at the end of the paper listing sources *referenced within the paper*

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Argument**  **60 points** | **Organization and paragraphs**  **30 points** | **Style and sentences**  **30 points** | **Conventions**  **30 points** |
|  | -The paper presents a logical, persuasive and scholarly argument about the topic.  -The paper is insightful and complex  -The paper addresses relevant authorities on the topic and clearly explains the connection between the source and the paper’s main idea.  -The paper weighs a wide variety range of viewpoints, and persuasively articulates the reasons for its position on the topic.    -The paper creates genuine interest in the topic | -The structure of the paper’s argument is clear and logical.  -Individual paragraphs are unified and coherent.  -Transitions between paragraphs underscore the links in the paper’s argument.  -The paper possesses a skillful and interesting introduction and conclusion. | -The sentences are consistently clear, coherent, and syntactically varied  -Precise word choice and an appropriate tone support the paper’s purpose and display a command of the conventions of academic writing. | •The grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage conform to conventions of academic writing and lend credibility to the writer.  •References to sources are accurately cited and documented using MLA format  •Format is consistently correct and appropriate. |

This assignment addresses the following Category 10 course outcomes:

1. • develop abilities in a range of written and oral modes of academic discourse, with an emphasis on developing the ability to construct coherent, well-documented arguments in the presence of a wide range of perspective and experiences
2. • refine students' abilities to consider audience and to employ rhetorical strategies which communicate appropriately; introduce students to issues in written communication
3. • include critical reading, viewing, and/or listening to several modes of communication with attention to developing skills necessary to identify premises and assumptions in complex arguments made from a range of perspectives
4. • require critical use of library and internet resources
5. • refine students' abilities to incorporate cited materials responsibly and effectively (including introducing students to various documentation formats--APA, MLA, etc.)
6. • require attention to both process and product in instruction and evaluation
7. • extend and refine students' editing skills
8. • require the use of computer-based technologies in the creation of written text
9. • include interactive and/or collaborative reading and writing activities and discussion of same
10. • require that each student complete a minimum of 20 double-spaced pages of formal writing and the equivalent of 20 double-spaced pages of drafts and informal writing (such as posts to email dialogue groups, responses, journals, etc.) divided into multiple assignments which include appropriate feedback
11. • require that each student engage in significant speaking activities (in a variety of forms) which include appropriate feedback