**Argumentative Documented Essay Assignment**

Write a 3-5-page (double-spaced) argumentative documented essay on any of the topics related to the TED.com videos shown in class. You will turn in **only one draft**, which will be your final writing assessment for the term.

You must find three of the best sources you can find online from reliable sources (in addition to the TED video) to use as references. \*See backside for how to choose good sources.

This is a research paper. Writing a research paper involves **integrating your ideas about the topic with the ideas of experts.**  Your research will be a search for facts and opinions of experts about your topic. You will then take this information and blend it with your own opinion and knowledge to create an original paper that argues for a particular position on your topic. Since this is an **argumentative essay**, you must present your **opponents view in your introductory paragraph** as well as in at least one of your body paragraphs.

Your final paper will be 5-7 pages long when it includes your title page, essay, and reference page. Use only size 12, Times New Roman font. Use APA for your in-text and Works Cited citations.

**What To Do and Dates To Remember:**

1. You must choose two topics, a first choice and second choice, by and discuss them with your instructor on that day. You must get approval for your topic before you begin researching your sources.

2. Next, you must choose three sources on your own from the internet. These sources must be **printed** and brought to class on . You must also get approval for these.

3. A detailed outline of what you plan to write is due .

4. Your final draft is due .

You must hand in a hardcopy as well as upload a copy onto turnitin.com before class that day.

5. You will present your paper to the class on

.

**Choosing sources:**

Sources must be either articles, essays, or research papers written by people who are experts on the topic. Look for sources that have something good to say about your chosen topic – information that will give strong support to your argument. You may need to read several sources before you find the 3 that you will use in your essay.

Choose sources from websites that are reputable and scholarly.

**Reliable Sources:**

1. Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com/

2. JStor (online research database): http://www.jstor.org/

3. New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/

4. Time Magazine: www.time.com

5. Los Angeles Times: http://www.latimes.com/

6. The Economist: http://www.economist.com/

**Poor sources:**

1. personal blog sites

2. Wikipedia

3. Entertainment sites like: People.com

The TED videos I've chosen for this quarter are:

**1.  How prisons can help inmates live meaningful lives (~10 min.)**

*How should society deal with criminals?*

*Lock and control*

*Rehabilitate*

*🡪 what's the best way to rehabilitate/reprogram?*

**2.  Teach every child about food (~22 min.)**

*Obesity (adults and children) a big problem in US today*

*How to fix it? 🡪 Change how we approach food in the home, business, schools.*

*Home: teach children about food (healthy/unhealthy), how to cook, cook and eat together*

*Businesses: food labels, food experts, less sugar/fat/processed foods*

*Schools: more fresh/natural foods, not about cost saving*

**3.  Google's driverless car (~4 min.)**

*The benefits of driverless cars (less car accidents, smoother traffic, save gas?)*

*The dangers (used as weapon, hacked/system overrides, switching from automatic to driver control)*

**4.  Printing a human kidney (~17 min.)**

*The benefits of printing human organs (heart, blood vessels, kidneys, livers)*

*The dangers (playing God, abusing this power, rich/poor)*

**5.  How autism freed me to be myself (~6 min.)**  
*Jamie King – Autism set me free*

*We're always wanting to be normal, like everyone else.*

*She argues that it's better to be abnormal, not like everyone else. Those with autism, lesbian/gay, women, people of color.*

*People who are different should be accepted, embraced, not told to conform.*

*Benefits of being different*