Argumentative Unit Paper: Building Skills for Success

Project Overview:
Gladwell reveals that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become an expert in a field. As you begin college, you should strive to build these hours in your chosen field of study. One good way to practice your skills is to conduct research about a topic in your field and write about it. Furthermore, the ability to persuade is a useful skill in most fields. Therefore, for this paper you will choose an arguable topic related to your chosen major, research the topic in order to develop an informed opinion, and then argue this opinion using your research as support.

• **Research:** In order to successfully complete this assignment, you will have to conduct a systematic research to find out multiple arguments and counter arguments about the question of interest in addition to incorporate the results of your research in to a well-organized document.

• **Persuasion:** Throughout the essay you will need to persuade your audience by formulating a clear thesis and supporting your thesis using research based examples. This will require you to carefully analyzing the different points of view and perspectives that are contributing to the conversation surrounding the topic and use this analysis to draw conclusions about the issue and justify your position.

• **Note:** Because some issues tend to lead to black and white thinking and we are striving to build nuanced argumentation skills, divisive and polarizing issues such as gun control, the death penalty, and abortion will not considered as appropriate for this paper.

Writing Goals:
Effective papers will:
• Engage in an exigent conversation about your specific topic.
• Present a convincing argument supported by properly cited credible research.
• Illustrate integration and synthesis of research sources and authorial voice.
• Thoughtfully consider multiple perspectives by addressing counter-arguments
• Sufficiently utilize textual evidence (quotes and paraphrases) to support the argument
• Demonstrate logos, pathos, ethos, and kairos

Getting Ready to Write: Possible Questions to Consider
• What am I interested in doing in the future? What research can I do to discover what makes someone successful in this field?
• Is there a topic related to my field of study that excites me—or one I’d love to dig into?
• What societal issues matter to someone in my field?

Requirements:
• 1000-1500 words, double-spaced (approximately 4-6 pages)
• Cite all sources (quotes AND paraphrases) in MLA format
• MLA-style formatting for headings, margins, line spacing, and page numbers
• 12-point Times New Roman font
• Works Cited Page with at least three credible outside sources

Major Due Dates:
• 1-2 page problem statement due in class and on Blackboard Wednesday, November 1
• Full draft due in class for writing workshop and peer review Monday, November 13
• Full revision due in class and on Blackboard Wednesday, November 15