

Documented Essay

The documented essay reflects your individual research interests. What question continues to interest you uniquely even as you and your partner, if you are working as a pair, tackle a common subject? What conclusion will you come to about that issue, and why? Continue to gather evidence and hone your research question, learning what scholars and others say about the topic. Make your own conclusions, based on the evidence and your own critical thinking. Then write a documented essay that argues an answer to your research question.

- Make sure that your essay is argument-driven, not just summarizing your research but clearly presenting your research in a way that combines what you have read and learned with what you now think about the subject.
- Support your conclusions persuasively with the evidence you collect.
- Address counter-arguments.
- A significant portion of your source material should come from scholarly material (ie articles from peer-reviewed journals), but you should also include various other sources as needed for your particular topic: interviews that you conduct (in person, by phone, or via email), journalistic articles and opinion pieces, books and essays, etc.
- Use at least two different kinds of evidence: charts, other presentations of quantitative data, quotations, etc.
- Write 6-8 pages, not including your Works Cited page(s).
- Cite all of your sources using the MLA documentation style.
- Craft a substantive title.

Your documented essay is due via email by midnight Friday, December 4.