Social Sciences Unit Paper—Assignment and Guidelines

Persuasive Essay

For the second unit paper you are going to write a persuasive essay in which you argue a position of your choice from the topics we’ve discussed in class, drawing support for your claims from the readings for this unit. In writing the essay, you will want to consider both sides of the position, pointing to evidence that supports your position, while trying to rebut the positions of your opponents. Your ultimate goal is to produce a persuasive argument about a potentially controversial position.

Possible topics for the paper include advertising’s influence on society, gender and oppression, the United States’ invasion of Iraq, and the effectiveness of different methods of governing.

Expectations:

You must reference at least two of the readings from this unit related to your topic. In addition to this, you may also cite up to two reliable outside sources, but this is not a required element of the paper. (The outside sources could help in providing more support for your claims, or in giving you another opposition position to consider.)

The essay should be 4-5 pages in length, typed (12 point Times Roman font), double-spaced, with one-inch margins and page numbers. Cite all sources using MLA style and include a title. A rough draft is due in class on Wednesday Nov. 8 (bring three copies to class) and the final draft is due on Monday Nov. 13, as part of your Unit Two Portfolio.

Evaluative Criteria:

- Is the essay clearly and logically structured?
- Does the essay use concise language and leave out any excessive or irrelevant material?
- Does the essay present its argument in a persuasive manner, using several clear details or examples to support its claims?
- Does the essay anticipate the arguments and objections of its opponents and attempt to counter them?
- Does the essay show clear usage of grammar, spelling, diction, and mechanics?