Assignment:

After having the opportunity to think about many controversial and argumentative topics, you should now choose one for which you will research. Once you have selected your topic, you will begin to formulate an essential question and research your topic. You should begin your research by understanding you will select SIX reliable and legitimate sources that will help you defend, challenge or qualify a particular subject. You will be writing a 2-4 page research paper taking one of the above suggestions (defend, challenge, or qualify) to convey what you have discovered in your researching experience.

Expectations:

Cover Page:

- MLA Format – Heading upper left and page numbers upper right
- Introduction – introduce your topic
- Thesis – a declaration of your topic and position
- SIX Sources – Your sources must include evidence of the counter point and include at least one pictorial source, but no more than two pictorial sources

Source Pages:

- MLA Documentation for Citations – (see handout for template – use hanging indentation for citation)
- Source Box – (include source box label - Source A, Source B, etc. in or above source box)
- Overview Sentence – this is a brief summarizing statement of the resource you are using – (this statement should be italicized and placed between the source box and the picture, graph, paragraph of source material)
- Citations (written citation should not be longer that ½ to ¾ page, 12 font, TNR and placed on its own page)

Essay Suggestions:

- Starting point: In argumentative writing, you begin with a strong feeling/position about an important issue, one about which there are significant differences of opinion. This “feeling” or position should be conveyed in your introduction.

- Purpose: Your goal is to convince readers to agree with your argument (or accept its validity).

- Form: Most argumentative writing follows a predictable pattern. An opinion is expressed and fully supported. Opposing arguments are addressed (counter arguments). Then, in closing, the opinion is reasserted with added extensions of insights.
• Audience: Always have clear sense of your audience, whether writing for your peers or a more general audience. What do they already know about the topic? What objections may they have to your opinion? For the purpose of this essay, assume you are dealing with intelligent people who are somewhat familiar with your topic.

• Voice: Speak with confidence and assurance, but be reasonable and fair in your comments. This will help you gain the confidence of your readers.

• Point of View: Use third person (he, she, they) is most common in argumentative writing. Maintain a formal voice for this essay practice

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Procedure:

Step 1: Choose a topic

Step 2: Write an essential question

Step 3: Research a variety of materials for information discovery

Step 4: Create the source template for each of your SIX sources (see example)

Step 5: Establish multiple views of your topic within an introduction, along with stating a thesis for which you will base the rest of your paper (see example for introduction and thesis template)

Step 6: Outline your specific points that you want to use to defend, challenge, or qualify your specific topic. You should include examples of your support (direct and/or indirect) in this sentence outline from your SIX sources

Step 7: Write a 2-4 page rough draft which defends, challenges or qualifies a particular notion one might have on your chosen topic

Step 8: Create a works cited page using accurate MLA format (see your student handbook and example given to you in class) for the SIX sources you will use in your research paper

Step 9: Write a 2-4 page final draft which defends, challenges, or qualifies the notion of your chosen topic
Grading:

Prewriting:
- Introduction, thesis statement and source information sheet..................................20 points
- Sentence outline for essay – thesis, major points, support ideas.................................20 points
- SIX sources selected and reformatted into template required.................................60 points

Total........................................................................................................................................100 points

Writing:
- Rough draft typed with proper MLA citation...............................................................50 points
- Final draft typed with proper MLA citation.................................................................100 points
  *Use of minimally 3-4 of the sources gathered (1 pictorial and 2-3 written sources)
  *Thesis statement should appear as the final sentence in your introduction
  *Well-developed and supported argument
  *2-3 pages in length (maximum)
- Works cited page typed using correct MLA format..................................................50 points

Total........................................................................................................................................200 points

Timeline:
Monday, Feb. 13 – Introduce the essentials of writing a research paper

**Monday, Feb. 13** – Choose a topic and write an essential question

Tuesday, Feb. 14 – Research and create templates of your sources in the LMC lab

Wednesday, Feb. 15 – Research and create templates of your sources in the LMC lab

**Wednesday, Feb 15** – HOMEWORK - prepared cover page with introduction, thesis and SIX sources

**Thursday, Feb. 16** - All SIX sources templates (60 points) and cover page (20 points) is due today (60 points)

Tuesday, Feb. 21 – Students will begin writing a sentence outline that will include their thesis, major points, supporting points, and concluding ideas (20 points)

Thursday, Feb. 23 – A typed outline is due. Students will begin writing their research
papers and we will also review MLA format for the works cited page.

Friday, Feb. 24 - 29 – Students will continue writing rough draft from outline.

Wednesday, Feb.29 – Rough draft of research paper and works cited page is due today (50 points).

Friday, March 2 – Final draft of research paper due.

All of the following must be handed at time of paper due date (follow this order please):

2. SIX sources in correct template format.
3. Final draft of research with correct use of MLA documentation and formatting.
4. Works cited page correctly formatted using MLA.
5. Sentence outline with thesis, major points and supporting ideas.
6. Rough draft of research with correct use of MLA documentation and formatting.

Example Introductions and Assignments:

Introduction:

Television has been influential in the United States presidential elections since the 1960s. But just what is this influence, and how has it affected who is elected? Has it made elections fairer and more accessible, or has it moved candidates from pursuing issues to pursuing image?

Assignment:

Read the following sources (including any introductory information) carefully. Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources for support, take a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim that television has had a positive impact on presidential elections.

Introduction:

For years the Kenyan runners of Africa have dominated the middle distance and distance running events. Where does this phenomenal ability to compete at the professional level with such stamina come from? What gives them the extra edge against their competition? Is it natural ability, or is there something else giving them their spark?

Assignment:

Read the following sources (including any introductory information) carefully. Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least four of the sources for support, take a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim that genetics and training have brought Kenyans to their dominating success at the professional running level.

From the above assignment examples, you would choose one of the positions (defend, challenge or qualify) and write a thesis statement.