

Research Project

The research project will be completed in various stages as follows: (1) a research proposal; (2) an outline; (3) an oral presentation; and (4) an argumentative research paper

(1) Research Proposal (5%) – due Monday, November 12

Read through the provided list of Research Topics, and select one. Then, write a 1-page (typed) research proposal that contains the following:

- **(Tentative) Title**
- **A Project Overview:** Includes a brief description of your project, why it is important, and a working argumentative thesis statement.
- **Key Questions:** A list of at least 5 key questions that you will need to answer in order to write your research essay. Be specific!

Sample Proposal:

Name
Prof. Choi
English 1101 (DXXX)
Research Proposal

What Parents Should Share: Child Privacy in the Digital Age

Project Overview

My research paper will be tackling the question of whether or not parents should post anything about their children (stories, images, videos, etc.) online without the latter's permission. This issue is important because what parents share with others about their children in today's digital age presents new and often unanticipated risks, such as becoming susceptible to online predators or identity theft, according to new research being presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2016 National Conference & Exhibition in San Francisco. Moreover, research has shown that 92 percent of 2-year-olds in the United States already have an online presence, and about one-third make their first appearance on social media sites within their first 24 hours of life. I will be arguing that parents need to pay more attention to how the digital footprints they are creating for their children (often from birth) affect the children's well-being, both today and long into the future.

Key Questions

- 1) How are children potentially affected by the digital identities created for them by parents?
- 2) What counts as oversharing? What are the consequences of parents' online oversharing about their children?
- 3) Is it ethical for parents to post things online about their children without their children's

consent? Can this be considered an invasion of privacy?

- 4) What's the boundary between a parent's right to share information and a child's right to privacy? What are some ways to negotiate between the two?
- 5) Should parents be able to control the digital identities of their underage children?
- 6) According to studies, as teenagers and adults, how do those former children feel about the digital record of their earliest years created by their parents?

(2) Outline (10%) – due Monday, November 26

Must contain the following:

1. The **complete** introduction of the essay that includes the hook, exposition (background information about the issue and the position being argued), and a clear thesis statement
2. The topic sentence of each of the body paragraphs (a minimum of 3) that supports your thesis (as outlined in introduction)
3. Examples and support from secondary sources for each paragraph in bullet points
4. A sentence for each body paragraph that explains how the supporting evidence proves your paragraph's topic sentence and ultimately your thesis
5. A summary of the counterargument and your refutation, with supporting evidence
6. A conclusion that summarizes the main points presented in your body paragraphs, reinforces your thesis, and ends with a thought-provoking comment

*Outlines that fail to include all of the above will not be accepted.

Sample Outline:

Name

Prof. Choi

ENG 1101 (DXXX)

Research Outline

Title

I. Introduction

Your introduction should start with an interesting hook to get readers interested in the issue being discussed, and to see the relevance of the issue to us. You should then provide sufficient exposition or background information for the reader to understand the issue. For instance, you might mention the historical context, recent developments, recent events that have brought the issue back into the news, provide any definitions, statistics, etc. Provide any information necessary for the reader to understand the issue and your particular argument, and its importance. Finally, you must clearly state your thesis and preview what you will be discussing in the body paragraphs to support your thesis. Please note that your introduction doesn't have to be limited to one paragraph. For instance, you might need a full paragraph of background and a separate paragraph that outlines your thesis and previews the points of support.

II. Argument: Reasons that Support the Thesis Statement

- A. Reason/Argument 1 (Main Point #1)
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence
 - 3. Link back/explain how this evidence reinforces the thesis

- B. Reason/Argument 2 (Main Point #2)
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence
 - 3. Link back/explain how this evidence reinforces the thesis

- C. Reason/Argument 3 (Main Point #3)
 - 1. Supporting evidence
 - 2. Supporting evidence
 - 3. Link back/explain how this evidence reinforces the thesis

III. Counter Arguments and Responses to Them

- A. Briefly summarize the strongest opposing arguments
- B. Refute the other opposing argument with supporting evidence

Conclusion (*This section of your paper should summarize and look to the future.*)

- A. Briefly summarize the main points presented in your body paragraphs
- B. Reinforce thesis
- C. End with a thought-provoking comment

(3) Oral Presentation (5%) – to be presented during Week 15 (according to sign-up sheet)

Students must create a PowerPoint presentation based on their research project and present it to the class in a 5-minute presentation. Each presentation will be followed by a short Q&A session (2 minutes). **You will be evaluated on: (1) content and organization; (2) presentation skills; and (3) the PowerPoint presentation.**

To help your listeners stay focused on your presentation, use transitional words. You must speak loud enough, slow enough, clear enough, and with enough modulation in your voice to be heard and understood without difficulty by everyone in the room. Don't read from a prepared speech. Rather, **use notes and make eye contact**. Your grade will suffer if you merely read and don't ever look up. Instead, practice your presentation aloud several times before class to be sure that it is smooth and well-timed.

You can select some of the following questions to help you generate ideas for your presentation but do not simply answer them in order. Your presentation should have a logical flow, just as your paper will.

1. What did you argue?
2. What supporting reasons did you use to support your main claim?
3. What assumptions allowed you to arrive at those reasons?
4. What was some of the strongest evidence you found to support your argument?
5. Who was your opposition? How did you account for the counterevidence?
6. What did you think about your topic before the research process began? How did your research shape the way you think about your topic? Did your research cause you to change your mind?

Lastly, make sure to organize your presentation. Chances are that your material will evolve in a progression that resembles your essay. Here is one potential way to think of it:

- I. State Point of View: provide direct statement of position on the topic at hand.
- II. State Reasons Why: provide broad reasons why you hold this point of view.
- III. Present Evidence and Examples: provide data to support the stated point of view and reasons.
- IV. Discredit counter evidence.
- V. Restate Point of View: drive the argument home.

And finally, be advised that **you will need to be an active listener as well**. You must listen attentively, and be prepared to answer/ask question(s) about each presentation.

A sign-up sheet for presentations will be passed around during Week 14. Students will be responsible to present on the day/time they sign up for. If you are not present for your assigned time, you will forfeit your chance to present and receive a 0 for the presentation.

(4) Argumentative Research Paper (15%) – due Wednesday, December 12

You must write a **5-6 page** (typed, double-spaced) argumentative essay based on a current controversial issue.

Rather than merely summarizing information that has been gathered, a research-based argumentative essay asks a writer to use his or her research to formulate a new insight into a topic or issue and share that fresh understanding with the reader. In a coherent, well-organized essay with a specific and precisely worded thesis statement, your essay should contain an appropriate balance between both analysis and adequate support including evidence, facts, details, and examples that are relevant and move your argument forward.

There are seven main features that I will look for when grading your essays:

- A clear title and an introduction that gives an overview of the paper's topic and includes a powerful thesis statement.
- A clear argument with specific, well-integrated evidence that also takes into account the

potential counterevidence.

- A strong, well-developed conclusion.
- Organization in the presentation of material. Each body paragraph in the essay should be organized around topic sentences, followed by supporting details that are introduced and explained. Make sure to use transition words in your paragraphs to guide your reader from idea to idea.
- The insight you have into topic, and the effort you have put into both researching and thinking critically about your stance.
- The relevance and seamless integration of secondary sources.
- Use of well-structured sentences, clean paragraphs, and proper grammar and spelling.
- Your ability to meet format guidelines (i.e., MLA citations).

Your topic must be cleared by me before you begin writing.

This essay requires research! Make sure to support your argument with adequate evidence from **a minimum of 5 secondary sources** (books, newspaper/magazine articles, or scholarly journal articles). Each of these should have been published recently (in the last 5 years). Any other types of sources, such as Internet or media sources, must be approved by me first. Non-scholarly sources, such as Wikipedia, are unacceptable. **All secondary sources must be parenthetically cited within your essay and referenced at the end in a separate bibliography page.**

Tips/Reminders:

- **Counterargument** – Your last body paragraph before the conclusion should address the counterargument. What this means is you must consider a possible argument against your thesis and then refute it with convincing evidence.
- **Organization** – Remember the snowball effect. Your essay should become more and more convincing with each paragraph.
- **Transitions** – Use these to link each point in the argument back to the thesis. Also, use transitional expressions of comparison/contrast to make links between the points within paragraphs.
- **Secondary sources** – Frame every quote, or “sandwich” it between your own words. Never just drop in a quote without explanation or to substitute your own writing.
- **Title your work** – Give your essay a catchy and representative title that captures the essence of your research topic
- **Format your paper** according to the guidelines explained on the course syllabus under “Formatting papers.” The bibliography must also be formatted according to MLA guidelines. A grade penalty of 1/3 a mark will be deducted for those who do not follow the formatting guidelines.
- **Proofread your work** several times! Papers with a low level of language and mechanics will lose points.

- **Plagiarism** – the rules on plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Be careful when paraphrasing others' thoughts. Paraphrases ALSO have to be acknowledged. Document your sources fully.

Research Topics

1. Is Citizen (a crime reporting app) policing the future? What are the ethical problems posed by vigilante justice? Has the app been positively addressing such problems since its creation?
2. Is Hollywood guilty of cultural appropriation? What are examples of movies that demonstrate cultural appreciation vs. cultural appropriation? Is the depiction of minority cultures improving or getting worse?
3. Anthony Bourdain and Kate Spade are only two high-profile celebrities who have recently ended their lives in suicide. What factors have contributed to the increase in suicide? How can we control the spread of suicide contagion?
4. What are the actual benefits of a vegan diet? Is it healthier to be vegan than to eat meat? Will veganism replace meat-eating?
5. Trace the gentrification of a New York City neighborhood over the span of 10 years or more. How did it impact the neighborhood? Compare/contrast the effects of gentrification in that area on two distinct groups in that community.
6. How do the laws need to change with regard to holding people accountable for what they post online (e.g., Internet bullying and shaming)?
7. Is modern feminism failing us? How has technology affected the feminist movement?

*If you have an additional topic in which you are interested, please discuss it with me first for approval.



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