

## American Literature: RESEARCH-BASED ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

**The Assignment:** You are to research (using at least 5 different sources with no more than 2 coming from web sites) and compose a 3-5 page argumentative paper focusing on one of the following controversial issues.

**The Purpose:** To enlighten your audience of the rationale behind your position on a debatable issue.

**The Process:** You will have specific due dates established for each step of the writing process--from your proposal, to your outline, to your final draft.

**Because this is a long-term project, late work will receive partial credit only, and will not be eligible for revisions. You must keep up with the schedule.**

### Argumentative Paper Topics

Select ONE of the following research topics.

Note that these topics are in the form of research questions. **These research questions are only suggestions.** You may choose to pose a different research question that relates to the topic of your choice.

\*\*\*The thesis of your paper will be your answer to the research question—a declarative statement of your position based on research.

#### TOPIC ONE: Technology and Learning

- Is one-on-one technology (i-Pads, laptops, etc.) beneficial or detrimental to students' academic achievement?

OR

- What impact does technology have on education?

#### TOPIC TWO: Affirmative action

- What impact does Affirmative action make on American society?

OR

- Does Affirmative action benefit American society, or does it lead to “reverse discrimination”?

#### TOPIC THREE: Students and Homework

- How does homework affect student achievement?

#### TOPIC FOUR: Standardized Tests

- How accurate and effective are standardized tests in measuring student achievement?

OR

- Is the use of standardized tests improving education in America?

#### TOPIC FIVE: Multitasking

- How effective is multitasking?