

ICOMM 210: Introduction to Social Media

Assignment: Paper

Point Total: 200

Overview:

To grasp the intersection of theory and application, students will need to decide upon a research question and then write an Argumentative Research Paper. That question should come from class (e.g. group presentations, readings).

Students will work on this paper in small chunks throughout a multi-week arc so they can grasp the subtleties of writing an academic paper. These research methods should be deployed in group presentations and other academic research areas as well.)

- Argumentative Research Paper:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/>
- How to write an Argument Paper:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/1/>

Objectives:

- Understand basic academic research frameworks as demonstrated by the Literature Review
- Apply critical thinking and analysis through the creation of a complex argument around a single thesis as demonstrated by the paper

Requirements:

This research paper should be, at minimum, 10 pages. There is no maximum length. It's also important to note that while students will be turning in an annotated bibliography, that is substantially different than a literature review. Students will need to re-write and summarize part of the annotated bibliography for use in the literature review section.

These are the component parts:

- **Research Question**: This is the question that you will use to guide your initial research. You should also include 5-7 keywords you think you might use to search.
 - What is it that you want to know?
 - Does using Google make us smarter? Are their psychological issues related to social networking?
- **Annotated Bibliography**: Once you have a question, you will search for academic journals and other writing that answers your question. To do that, you will write an annotated bibliography. This isn't wasted effort, either. In this research, you'll discover the argument you want to make (and you'll discover the other side of the argument). Also: you will need 20 sources in your paper and this will be a good start (as you need 20 sources here as well).

As you come across sources, you should use Zotero to capture the citation. Then you will need to write a paragraph summarizing the findings of the paper. This means you'll need to understand what the paper is saying.

- Hint: The paper looked at whether or not searching on the Internet was helpful for students in school. It also asked teachers what they thought.
 - This is not a summary. Summaries tell me specific bits of information.
- **Thesis Statement**: Once you have finished the annotated bibliography, you should know what you want you want to argue. You should state this in one sentence.
- **Abstract**: This is 100-150 words that summarizes the main arguments in your paper.
- **Introduction**: This 250-400 word introduction should frame the specific thesis ideas by giving context, particularly the space in which the problem exists.
 - E.g. If you're talking about citizen journalism, you may frame the problem from the perspective of the New York Times or by your local student newspaper. These will involved different introductions.
- **Literature Review**: This section is where you operationalize the terminologies you will use, you frame previous research, and you explain where your argument fits into the ongoing academic discussion.
 - How to write a Literature Review:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01/>
- **Argument**: This is the bulk of your work. In an Argument paper, the author should construct a series of main points that become narrower in scope (per the guidelines linked in the "specific outlines" section of the Overview).
- **Conclusion**: Summarize your argument and particularly point towards where people are beginning to move ahead with this argument.
- **Works Cited**

Timeline:

Week 4: Research Question Due

Week 6: Annotated Bibliography Due (10)

Week 8: Thesis, Abstract, Keyword, Introduction, Annotated Bibliography (20)

Week 11: Final Paper

Grading:

	A	B	C	D	F
Research Question (5)					
Annotated Bibliography (20)					

Annotated Bibliography (20)					
Paper					
Thesis (5)					
Abstract (5)					
Lit Review (50)					
Argument (50)					
Conclusion (5)					
Works Cited (20)					
Writing (20)					
Total					

*This paper should include *at least* 20 works cited, for which 10 should be peer-reviewed research. Any referenced material or thought that comes from a source other than the student must be attributed as such.