

Checklist for the Term Argument Paper

- Do you have a clear and succinct statement of thesis, near the top (deductive) or near the end (inductive)?
- Have you clearly demonstrated why your argument is relevant / important or, at the least, worth the reader's time?
- How are you developing support for your argument? What "tools" are you using?
 - Be sure to structure your argument coherently, having your claim align with your opponents' objections.
 - Be sure to appeal to your opponents. They are the ones you need to convince. Also, are you using...
 - Emotional appeal?
 - Appeal to reason / logic?
 - A consensus among experts?
 - Are you mediating an issue, encouraging opposing groups to find common ground?
 - Is yours a *moral* argument for which you need to use a warrant (see Turabian 72-73)? You would use a warrant when others will disagree with you because they don't share your *principles*. In using a warrant, you work to educate your reader about the validity of your principles. You will respectfully acknowledge the other side's concerns. But you will respond not only with solid evidence for your claim, but also a reasoned discussion for the moral position that you are taking up. A warrant makes a case for the validity of your moral position.
- Are you ending the essay effectively? Don't simply restate your position. Try to end with an emphatic statement that helps drive home your point, ideally something that your reader will remember.
- Have you *sourced* every idea, paraphrase and direct quote. Source *all* of your research, everything but your own original work.
- Have you ensured that you are using MLA style as set out in Turabian, citing sources in the text, for instance, (Turabian 123), and in a Work Cited page?
- Proofread for typos, misspellings and technical errors? Review your graded papers and ensure that you are not making the same mistakes.

Finally, turn in your Term Argument Paper in a folder with your past work, as described on the syllabus.