Composition 4: Research Argument – 250 points

Description
This essay will utilize the skills learned from Compositions 1 & 2, and the research from Composition 3 in order to form your own original argument and/or to answer a question you find intriguing. Your topic will be the same as, or a more specific version of, the topic you used in Composition 3.

For Composition 1, you began exploring an archive through careful reading and exploration and summarized the information within the archive; for Composition 2, you analyzed and evaluated the archive. In Composition 3, you began with a broad point of inquiry and worked to compose a visualization of connections between your sources; you allowed your research readings to inform your revision of your research question, and you reflected on the research process. For Composition 4, you will have the opportunity to develop your own idea, to interpret your sources, and to write an original argument about your research topic. You will use 5-6 sources for this essay, and the sources should represent a well-rounded view of your topic. Your paper will be about 7-9 pages long (counting the Works Cited).

Your final paper will be formatted according to MLA, APA, Chicago, or etc. Just be sure to be consistent with your chosen style. If you need assistance for formatting, remember that you can refer to guidelines in the course text Everyone’s an Author or online at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01 for additional help.

Remember While You Write
- **Thesis-driven** – Make sure it is narrow and debatable. Narrow your focus and do not let your argument topic be too broad.
- **Paragraph Cohesion** – Practice careful revision processes in which you completely develop each paragraph and connect it to the larger idea of your argument.
- **Argument** – Your essay should logically develop a complex argument about a topic, and in developing your argument, you should explain your reasoning rather than simply relying on descriptions.
- **Rhetorical Awareness** – Develop your argument with careful attention to the rhetorical situation in which you purposefully choose style, tone, organization, evidence, and etc.
- **Use of Sources** – Each source does not necessarily have to carry the same weight – some will be more applicable to your argument; however, do make correct use of quotations, paraphrases, etc. by citing in text and on a Works Cited/References page.
- **Scholarship Contribution** – Your essay should focus on research, as you are a novice scholar, but it can include some personal experience. However, your experience, if any, should NOT be the bulk of your argument. So, yes, you can use “I,” but only when appropriate and referring to your own experiences.

Grading Criteria
Successful essays will
- be driven by a debatable, original thesis that answers your inquiry question (from Composition #3);
- clearly develop your thesis and is characterized by thoughtful insight that works to persuade your audience;
- successfully integrate outside sources to fully support and develop your own argument (through summarizing, paraphrasing, and/or quoting your sources);
- be thoughtfully revised to construct a composition that is mechanically and grammatically sound;
- demonstrate proficiency with a formatting style that reflects attention to your audience.