1. Chapter 10 which covers the Planning and Research for writing an argumentative paper is a very useful concept for writing any research intensive paper. A good point made in the text is that “Your thesis must be neither too broad nor too narrow.” For a six page argumentative essay, chances are, no debatable topics are going to be too narrow but it is important that the topic chosen is not so broad that your position cannot be effectively debated. I will definitely list out my potential issues and points of my paper to determine if I must be more specific in my topic. In order to better organize my arguments, I will use a similar outline to the example in the text to help map out my research. Using credible sources is important to me when researching a topic. I generally just use the internet but I have found out ways of weeding out some of the less credible sources by primarily using scholarly sites, scientific journals, and government websites. What I found useful was that at the bottom of many websites’ homepages is the person or organization who copyrighted the site. The text then tells how to investigate further and determine whether the site is credible. FactCheck.org is a site that I had not previously heard of but will often be using in the future when doing research. I will be using the “Documenting Your Research” section of chapter 10 to write my reference page. I know the basic idea behind writing a reference page but I do not have the format memorized for every possible source so I will be referring to the section using the APA format for that.

Chapter 11 covers how write your paper and correctly document your sources. I think the most important topics in this section and which is often poorly done, is effectively refuting an opposing view. I found the text where it described how to pick out opposing views to argue important; especially where it explains how to pick out the most important points to refute in order to keep your argument from being too long or complex. The section on “Finding the Middle Ground,” was a useful section for me to read. Sometimes I don’t include a middle ground aspect where the opposing view is considered and advantages are also given. Including a middle ground is a very persuasive component of a paper because it shows that you can acknowledge reason on both sides of a debate and that you are not just one-sided or close-minded. The section on MLA/APA citing sources is very useful for me also. I am never 100% sure how to cite my sources so this section should prove very useful when writing my paper.

1. In chapter 10, on p.419-428, the text covers documenting your research with MLA format which is used to write a reference page. In chapter 11, on p.453-463, the text covers how to cite sources in MLA format.
2. In chapter 10, on p.429-436, the text covers documenting your research with APA format which is used to write a reference page. In chapter 11, on p.464-477, the text covers how to cite sources in APA format.
3. Handout #1 and Handout #2 cover how to write in-text citations, rules about and ways to quote or paraphrase.
4. The packet clearly explains what to do to prevent overuse of quotes. The packet explains that you should only quote when you really think that stating the exact words is preferred over a paraphrase. If you can, paraphrase instead of quote. I did not see it mentioned in the packet how to prevent overuse of paraphrasing. What I would personally do is make sure I am at least introducing ideas and topics with my own words and ending ideas and topics with a conclusion in my own words. After paraphrasing, I would further explain the ideas and also transition to other ideas with my own words.
5. a) Use author’s last name and page number when the author of the source of the quote is not mentioned. ex: (Steptoe 354)

b) Use a page only citation when the author of the article cited is used in the sentence. ex: (354)

c) When there is no author stated from a source then cite by using the title instead.

ex: (“Awash” 26)

1. Did not find an example of an in-text citation in the packet that uses a newspaper article. An example in the text on p.461 is (Eisler). This is used for a newspaper that was accessed online.