**English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Argumentative Research Paper Guidelines**

Spring 2025

***What is the argumentative research paper about?***

☐ Your paper will be about the same topic you presented for the Midterm Group Presentation.

☐ It must be an argumentative paper.

☐ You can take the same stance as your group presentation to write your paper or you can take a different stance. Or your paper can focus on different key points than your group members write about.

***What should the structure of the paper be?***

☐ Your paper should be a minimum of 5 paragraphs, including an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

☐ It should be 4-6 pages long (1,000-1,500 words), plus a Cover Page and a References Page.

☐ Use 12-point, Times New Roman font

☐ Set 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins

☐ Double space your entire document

☐ Indent the first line of every paragraph

**The Introduction (At least 5 Sentences)**

☐ Introduces the topic and gets the reader’s interest.

☐ Gives brief background information on the topic in two or three sentences.

☐ Provides your Thesis Statement (your topic plus position and two or three arguments regarding the topic) as a single sentence at the very end.

**The Body Paragraphs (Supporting and Counterargument Paragraphs)**

☐ Each body paragraph of the paper should have a topic sentence.

☐ The topic sentence (of your supporting argument paragraphs) should support the Thesis Statement and have the complete main idea of the paragraph.

☐ Expand details to support the topic sentence with a discussion of concepts, examples, explanations, data, and statistics, or an argument of your views with evidence.

☐ There should be at least one counterargument paragraph, presenting an opposing view to the position you have taken in your Thesis Statement

☐ Your counterargument paragraph should follow the same format as the supporting body paragraph.

☐ Support the counterargument by citing a source.

☐ Refute the counterargument by citing a source.

**The Conclusion (at least 5 Sentences)**

☐ Restates the Thesis

☐ Summarizes the main ideas of the body paragraphs (supporting and counter)

☐ Gives a final thought (such as a recommendation, suggestion, or prediction) on the topic

**References**

☐ Make a list of at least four sources listed in the References section (in APA 7 style) ‘

☐ These sources must also be detailed as in-text citations (referred to in your paragraphs)

☐ You should use at least four (4) sources from different publications.

☐ Three of your sources must academic journal articles.

☐ You should cite at least two sources not cited by your midterm group members.

* Your paper may also include primary research in the form of a personal interview with an “expert” on the topic or a survey.
* One source can be published in Chinese, but you will need to translate the citation to English.

***Paraphrasing and using direct quotes***

☐ Include at least 3 paraphrases.

☐ You may include a maximum of 3 direct quotes (though it’s not necessary).

☐ Use at least one in-text citation per body paragraph.

☐ The total number or paraphrases and quotations should be at least 4.