Assignment Overview: This persuasive essay will be a minimum of 4-6 pages and needs to include a minimum of five credible sources. You will be researching and writing this essay on a controversial topic that interests you. Please see below for tips on choosing topics. Your goal with this essay is to not only inform your reader on the rationale for your position on this topic, but also to persuade them to agree with you and take some sort of action.

Topic and Pre-writing Process:

Task 1: Choosing a topic

- Writer is truly interested and invested in the topic
- Writer is willing to learn more and to consider both sides of the argument
- Topic can be explained and analyzed with factual support for example articles need to be reputable (avoid op-ed pieces, blogs, or wikipedia)
- Topic can be researched and there are relevant facts and viewpoints to discuss
- Topic has a question(s) to be answered
- Writer can separate enough from the topic to see the validity of the opposing argument

Task 2: Issue Exploration

- Define issue and state your position
- Create a list of information based on what you already know about your issue
- Create a list of questions that you need to answer as you research this issue
- What has been discussed about this topic? Is this a current issue or ongoing?
- How does this issue impact others?
- What is the history of this issue?

Task 3: Audience

- How will readers most likely feel about this issue?
- What do you expect them to know?
- Are you writing this with the expectation that the readers will agree with your position or not? Stating the opposing argument and refuting it will be important.

Task 4: Preparing your Argument

- List every reason you can think of that will help to persuade your readers to agree with you
- Consider how you will appeal to the reader-logically, emotionally, or intellectually
Choose the order in which you will structure this argument-start with strongest points, opposing argument, and rebuttal of that argument
Consider any weak links or missing information that is necessary for the structure of your argument

Task 5: Opposition

What will the opposition say? Brainstorm and get feedback from peers about the potential argument from the opposition
Choose opposing arguments to include and have a clear plan to refute them; offer an alternative, opposing facts, question logic or plausibility of the argument

Overall Process:

Initial tasks 1-5 (See proposal handout)
Research and and effective note-taking
Plagiarism, paraphrasing, and citing information
Works Cited page in MLA format with a minimum of five sources
Thesis Statements
Outlining
Drafting
Peer editing and revision
Finalizing and turning in

Focus Groups:

You will be working in your groups for the entire process-your goal is to become familiar with each topic in your group and provide support through research, organizing and drafting.
You will peer edit together-thesis statements, introductions, entire rough drafts etc.

Expectations:

Final paper will be between 4-6 pages in length, typed, in 12 point font
Final paper will be turned in through turnitin.com
Rough drafts will be edited in class through peer editing sessions
Final paper will include correct format with in-text citations and a Works Cited page using MLA format-The Owl at Purdue website is a great resource for citations