Evaluation: Choosing Valid Sources for the Arguing Essay

(Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12)

As we worked on the reporting essay, we discussed how to evaluate different types of sources to ensure that we chose valid sources for our research. Since you have had practice with evaluating sources, this assignment will take it one step further by writing an evaluating essay on the sources that you plan on using for the arguing essay. For this project, write an evaluation based on the guidelines listed below.

**Goals for this assignment**

* Learn to choose criteria for an evaluation
* Learn to apply criteria for an evaluation
* Understand what constitutes a valid source
* Become adept at choosing valid sources
* Realize the benefits of different types of sources
* Understand the limitations of different types of sources
* Understand that although a source is valid, it may not be appropriate for the goal of an essay
* Reinforce the foundations of writing: purpose, audience, writer, and good qualities of good writing

**Instructions**

As we have discussed in class, many criteria are used when deciding on the validity of a source. For example, one can look at the author’s credentials, the date of the publication, the publisher, the consistency of facts, etc.

For this project, you will evaluate four sources you plan on using for your arguing essay. You must do all of the following for your evaluating essay:

1. Choose criteria for the evaluation

2. Explain why you chose that criteria

3. Apply the criteria to your sources

4. Explain at least one limitation of each source

5. Explain how you will use each source in your arguing essay

**Audience for this assignment**

Your audience for this essay will be your instructor.

**Length and format for this assignment**

Each draft will be 3 – 4, double-spaced, typed pages of text following either MLA or APA format. *The Norton Field Guide to Writing* gives an example of MLA format on pp. 468 – 476, and an example of APA format is on pp. 509 – 519. Keep in mind that your font must be Times New Roman, and it can be no larger than 12 font size.

**Checklist for turning in the final evaluation essay**

Below is a checklist of ALL THE ITEMS that must be included with the final project. As you complete each stage of the project, ensure you keep the materials in a folder so that you will have them to turn in.

1. \_\_\_\_ any prewriting (including notes taken on your subjects)

2. \_\_\_\_ first completed draft. Send electronic Copy to VeriCite

3. \_\_\_\_ final draft (3 – 4 double-spaced pages, not including the title page if you are

using APA format)

4. \_\_\_\_ thesis underlined

5. \_\_\_\_ electronic copies of the paper sent to VeriCite

6. \_\_\_\_ all of the above organized in a folder

7. \_\_\_\_ anything else your instructor wants in the folder (If your instructor wants

anything else, you will be told by your instructor.) ***Peer Review Sheet***

**IMPORTANT: If any of the above is missing, your instructor does not have to**

**grade the project, and at the least, the project will lose points for**

**any missing items.**