The purpose of your final essay is to develop an articulate, persuasive argument about an issue of social, political, or historical significance. You will apply critical thought and research skills in support of your argument to substantiate any and all claims made, providing all necessary contextual information and background. You must, in short, prove to the audience that you actually know what you are writing about, that you know your subject, as you proceed to take, explain, and defend the position you have put forth. The final essay has three main components: Thesis Your thesis should open the paper and introduce the main claim you are making as your argument. The thesis is crucial because it serves as the foundation on which you will build the rest of your paper. A strong thesis is one that has a strong, articulate, and well-developed claim Your paper’s claim should be the most concise formulation of your argument that you can muster — the no-frills version of the case you are making. It should very clearly make a case and argue a point. This can be difficult though, and you must strike a balance between hyper-specificity and vagueness. You will be able to flesh your arguments out in the argument’s body paragraphs, so you shouldn’t go into extreme detail, but should also avoid vague, directionless language. In providing this concise, not-too-specific and not-too-vague statement of your argument, you also provide a quick summary of the scope of your paper, the ground it will cover. In this capacity, the thesis statement is a roadmap that tells your reader not only the points that you will make, but also the order in which you will make them. Research and Supporting Paragraphs The general structure of arranging support for your thesis: · Claim: The overall thesis the writer will argue for. · Data: Evidence gathered to support the claim. · Warrant (also referred to as a bridge): Explanation of why or how the data supports the claim, the underlying assumption that connects your data to your claim. · Backing (also referred to as the foundation): Additional logic or reasoning that may be necessary to support the warrant. · Counterclaim: A claim that negates or disagrees with the thesis/claim. · Rebuttal: Evidence that negates or disagrees with the counterclaim. Including a well-thought-out warrant or bridge is essential to writing a good argumentative essay or paper. If you present data to your audience without explaining how it supports your thesis your readers may not make a connection between the two or they may draw different conclusions. Don't avoid the opposing side of an argument. Instead, include the opposing side as a counterclaim. Find out what the other side is saying and respond to it within your own argument. This is important so that the audience is not swayed by weak, but unrefuted, arguments. Including counterclaims allows you to find common ground with more of your readers. It also makes you look more credible because you appear to be knowledgeable about the entirety of the debate rather than just being biased or uniformed. You may want to include several counterclaims to show that you have thoroughly researched the topic. Conclusion An effective conclusion goes beyond simply restating or summarizing the argument. The goal is to synthesize, rather than repeat, an insight that derives from the points you made and the support and examples you used that fits everything together. You should indicate what the broader implications of your argument are, or in what ways the problem your argument seeks to address can/should/will/will not change. Doing this can be tricky, so don’t be afraid to tinker with a couple of drafts of your conclusion before making a final decision. Finally, make sure your paper has: · 6 PAGES MINUMUM · Proper MLA citation format · A works cited page with at least 7 (SEVEN) sources · Sufficient use of each of your sources in the paper · MLA citations used properly for both quotes and summaries · A complete Introduction and a complete Conclusion · A clear thesis statement · Well-reasoned support and justification at every step of the way · Proper page formatting. 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, double spaced. Block quotations—when what you are quoting exceeds four typed lines—must be centered, indented a half-inch, and single spaced.