

Research Paper
AP Language and Composition
Creating a Documented Argument

The Assignment

Defend, challenge, or qualify the assertion that *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* should be required reading in an 11th grade American literature class in a public high school. Use authoritative sources, meaning recognized critics, to support your argument.

Objectives

- Conduct both independent and teacher-supervised research.
- Create bibliography cards for all sources.
- Create note cards to collect and record information.
- Evaluate sources.
- Collect information that supports your opinion.
- Collect information that counters your opinion.
- Create an argument that contains the elements of a classical argument (claims of fact, value, and policy; support; and warrant) as well as the appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos.
- Demonstrate credibility as you persuade the audience to support your claims.

Research Requirements

You must use at least ten sources in your paper.

- At least three of those sources must be from text sources.
- At least three of those sources must support the counter argument, the opposition.
- One of those sources will be *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Procedure

1. Take notes on and be familiar with the elements of argument.
2. Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and take part in all class activities related to the novel.
3. Purchase approximately 100 index cards, preferably 4x6.
4. Find and bring to class your copy of *Writers INC*.
5. Take notes on and be familiar with bibliography and note card formats.
6. Spend time in the Media Center locating sources and beginning to take notes for your documented paper. Remember that you need support for claims of fact, claims of value, and claims of policy.
7. Turn in fifteen source cards, on time and in perfect format.
8. Turn in fifty note cards, on time and in perfect format.
9. Prepare an outline, using your note cards. Turn it in on time.
10. Write a rough draft of your research paper, using your outline and note cards. The draft **MUST** include parenthetical documentation in order for you to receive **ANY** credit. Turn the draft in on time.
11. Take part in the peer evaluation process.
12. Turn in the final draft of your paper, on time and in the correct format. You will need a title page, a ten-page documented essay (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced), and a works cited page.