Research Argument Paper: An Overview

Objective: Compose a five to eight page persuasive research paper in the classical argument style in which you take a stand on a specific issue addressing a cultural myth under one of the following topic categories:

- the myth of the model family
- the myth of educational empowerment
- the myth of progress on the tech frontier
- the myth of individual opportunity
- a myth of gender
- the myth of the melting pot in America.

Research: You will argue an informed opinion based on quotes, paraphrases and summaries from a minimum of seven authoritative sources:

- 2 contemporary periodical articles (one must be an academic journal)
- 1 legitimate website (use the CRAAP test to determine legitimacy)
- 1 book
- 1 article or essay from Rereading America
- 2 sources that you can choose on your own

As you collect sources:

- Read, annotate, highlight quotes that stand out to you, and add the sources to your annotated bibliography using the correct citation format. Begin to answer your research question and develop a thesis statement along with your own text to support it.

Structure for the Research Argument Paper (Classical Argument)

- Introductory paragraph that draws the reader into the paper with a “hook” and ends with a debatable thesis statement that you will argue throughout the paper
- A paragraph that summarizes both sides of the issue you are exploring
- Paragraphs that support your side of the argument using evidence from your sources
- A paragraph that addresses the opposing views and refutes those views
- A concluding paragraph that leaves the reader with something to think about/take action on