Please read the following directions carefully.

This is an **ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**. This means you need to take either a **pro or con** stance to your topic and **ARGUE** your point through **RESEARCH**, not opinion or wordiness. Do not forget that a good argumentative essay must discuss the pro and con sides of your topic. A great argumentative essay will turn those ideas opposite of your stance in your favor. DO NOT prepare 3 pages telling me “what” your topic is. For example, if you are writing on stem cell research I do not want you to waste two pages telling me every kind of stem cell, where it is made, what it does, etc. etc. You can BRIEFLY introduce your reader to the basic definition/idea of your topic. Your paper should not read like a Wikipedia page!! I expect you to introduce your readers to your topic and proceed to deliver your argument on why or why not your topic should be legal or considered ethical.

1. **Length** - **NO LESS THAN 4 PAGES** (not including title page and reference page) this means at the **MINIMUM** you will turn in **6 pages**!

2. **Format** - Your **ENTIRE** paper, including bibliography and title page should be in APA 6th Edition format!!! If you are not familiar with writing a paper in this format, you can find all the information you need here ----> **APA 6th Edition** No abstract is required for this assignment. Do not include an abstract in the length of your paper!

***WARNING*** GOING TO THE “REFERENCES” TAB IN MICROSOFT WORD AND SELECTING APA 6TH EDITION WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY FORMAT YOUR PAPER!! THIS IS A TOOL THAT IS USED TO HELP YOU INSERT YOUR SOURCES PROPERLY!! IT DOES NOT DO ALL OF THE WORK FOR YOU. YOU WILL HAVE TO TELL IT WHERE TO INSERT THE SOURCE AND THEN GIVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION FOR WORD TO PROPERLY FORMAT YOUR SOURCES.

3. **Research** - Your paper must reference at **LEAST 5 different sources, including at least 1 internet site, 1 book, and 2 professional journal articles**. All references must be as current as possible and **no more than 3 years old**.

- You are expected to conduct **formal** research, this means:
  - When using the Internet for research, use **RELIABLE** websites! Make sure your website has an extension like .edu, .org, or .gov. These are indicators of a **professional** website. You will find the most accurate, reliable information from these sites, not opinion. Did you know that Wikipedia pages can be edited by ANYONE, even you? Never EVER use Wikipedia as a source for research when preparing ANY paper. The information contained on Wikipedia is subject to being extremely incorrect.
  - Use a **BOOK** that concerns your topic. Do NOT give me Webster’s Dictionary as a book source for defining your topic. Just don’t.
  - Journal articles can be found using a database such as the one offered here at Panola College. If you are unfamiliar with using this database, the ladies in the library will be happy to assist you.
4. The paper should demonstrate one’s ability to communicate effectively in written form; specifically this includes vocabulary appropriate to the topic, tone, clarity of expression, correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You should be mindful of other rules that apply to writing a professional paper, including; not speaking in the first person (I, me, etc.) and not using contractions (can’t, won’t, shouldn’t). Do not include personal stories or opinions in the body of your paper. Save that for your conclusion.

5. Students are expected to create, write, edit, format, and submit their own paper. This is the area where a lot of students will run into problems with their originality score. You CANNOT copy the majority of your paper from other sources. You MUST write this paper in your OWN words and insert quotations, paraphrases, etc. from your research where appropriate to your topic of discussion as it relates to backing up your argument. Sometimes the nature of the referenced information will need to remain directly quoted to make sense. However, when and as often as possible, you should take the information you get from your research and “paraphrase” it, or put it in your own words. For example:

Since 1970, same-sex couples in the United States have sought the right to marry. In 1983, access to spousal rights for gay couples became an important issue. Karen Thompson’s fight to have access to her partner, Sharon Kowalski, and input concerning Sharon’s medical decisions took 8 years. Sharon was in a coma for months following a collision with a drunk driver. She was severely brain damaged and quadriplegic. It was Sharon’s wish that Karen be responsible for her care if the need were to arise. But Sharon’s parents would not allow it, and since the two could not marry, Karen had no spousal rights. However, she did ultimately win her case after almost a decade. A heterosexual couple would have never faced this dilemma, so many of them may fail to see the importance for same-sex couples to be entitled to the same rights. (Procon, 2013)

All of that information came from a reference source I used to write a paper. As you can see, it is not in quotation marks which means it is not a direct quote. I took the information from the story and put it into my own words, or “paraphrased” it, and still gave credit to the source at the end of my paragraph. Paraphrasing is NOT copying an entire paragraph and deleting a word or two here and there or changing a few words. The plagiarism website will pick that up and it WILL count against you! Where possible put information in your OWN words!!

Do not copy directly from the Internet or a book – it is plagiarism!

YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F" IN THIS CLASS FOR PLAGIARISM!

6. When you submit your paper in Canvas it will automatically be sent through TURNITIN.COM - an anti-plagiarism website. Do NOT submit your paper anywhere other than in Canvas, through your course where you are instructed to submit your final draft. If you have an account on Turnitin and submit it there trying to check your originality score, you will get an extremely high Turnitin score through Canvas and will
end up with a ZERO. Turnitin will evaluate the paper. If a "green" grade is given, no
points will be deducted. Any "yellow" or "red" grades will result in the loss of percentage
points that Turnitin deems as plagiarized. IF OVER HALF OF YOUR PAPER IS
DETERMINED TO BE COPIED FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, YOU WILL RECEIVE
A ZERO ON YOUR PAPER.

IF YOUR PAPER IS NOT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE, YOU WILL
RECEIVE A FINAL GRADE OF "F" IN THIS CLASS REGARDLESS OF YOUR
AVERAGE IN THE CLASS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE AN "A"!! THIS PAPER IS A COURSE
REQUIREMENT!