How Does a Literature Review Prepare Students for Argumentative Writing?

The literature review project in the TICE 1010 curriculum provides students with tools necessary for participating in quality academic discourse. The assignment encourages students to break away from preconceived notions and formulate supporting points based on research, so when it is time to write their own arguments, they are not based on personal investment, one-sided opinions, or poor research. The ability to effectively summarize and synthesize information is key for making good arguments.

◊ Having a thorough understanding of many perspectives of a topic allows for thoughtful, unbiased, and effective argumentation.
◊ Picking out a text’s thesis, identifying its supporting points, and understanding its connections to other works leads to a greater grasp of a topic.
◊ In these ways, opposing arguments can be expressed based on research without relying on biases, misunderstood information, or personal attacks.

Who We Are

About Us

The Weber State University Writing Center promotes students' academic success and life skills development by providing free drop-in and appointment tutoring during day, evening, and weekend hours, for students writing in courses across the curriculum. Tutors at the Writing Center help students with English papers, scientific reports, abstracts, personal poems, narratives, and more!

Contact Us

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What Is a Literature Review?

The culmination of the TICE 1010 coursework is a literature review, which is a large (10-12 page) synthesis assignment that navigates the conversation taking place among a number of texts on a related topic. Students use various sources to construct a narrative that encapsulates the conversation taking place on the topic. Before entering the conversation, students research and write about the discussions surrounding a topic, not the topic itself, and they generally do not give their opinions about the topic at this stage.

Students Use These Skills

Accurate Comprehension

◊ Comprehend longer articles, essays, and texts and identify the thesis/argument and all relevant supporting points.

◊ Summarize accurately the main points of a text.

Relevant Synthesis

◊ Find common themes between texts and compare and contrast them.

◊ Organize multiple texts into a comprehensive conversation centered on a main topic.

◊ Present unbiased information based on research.

These skills will prepare students for writing argument essays in ENGL 2010 in which they use synthesized information to create well-structured arguments.

What the Literature Review Prevents

◊ Quote Mining

◊ Plagiarism

◊ Faulty Argument

◊ Logical Fallacy

◊ Uninformed Opinion