

LUC WRITING CENTER – “THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL RESEARCH”

Conducting Careful Research

As you research and write your essay, the first thought in your mind may be the hope that your efforts will result in a good grade for the course. Obviously, that is an excellent goal to strive for, but there are other reasons why you should take this assignment very seriously and thoughtfully consider the merits of any source you discover while researching your chosen topic:

1. *You are building* good work, scheduling, and writing habits that will be an asset to you not only throughout your entire academic career but also in your future profession. If you treat this assignment as a serious and exciting chance to show off the new skills you have acquired in this course, the final product will do full justice to your improved writing.
2. *You are learning* to be impartial, carefully weighing the weaknesses and strengths of a source such as a newspaper article, a peer-reviewed study’s research methodology, the accuracy of scientific results, and the usefulness of a source to your project.
3. *You are acknowledging* sources that make statements contrary to your own argument by mentioning them in your essay. By satisfactorily answering the counterargument they present, you strengthen your own essay and demonstrate your ability to consider all opinions when reaching a logical, fair, and practical conclusion.
4. *You are contributing* to your academic or professional field by engaging with cutting-edge research, participating in an ongoing debate, or helping to solve an issue that will be of benefit to others. Citing peer-reviewed academics’ work informs your own argument, honors their contribution to scholarship, and keeps you from making embarrassing mistakes in your research. See [this article](#) for an example of failing both to research a subject enough and to consult the work of experts in the field.
5. *You are authoring* a paper that could be used to further your own academic and professional career outside of the classroom and beyond. Besides submitting your work for Loyola essay competitions, [consider applying to conferences](#) and sending your essay to journals in the appropriate field. Presenting conference papers and publishing as an undergraduate will look impressive on your CV and give you invaluable public speaking and professional writing experience before you enter graduate, law, or medical school or apply for jobs after college.

As a student at LUC, you have millions of records at your fingertips through the [LUC Libraries website](#), incredible college resources and academic support at your disposal such as the [LUC Writing Center](#) and the [LUC Center for Tutoring & Academic Excellence](#), and the leisure to develop your mind. Think of your Researched Argument essay as an opportunity to begin using your improved writing skills and make a positive impact on the world!