

Political Science 461 – Senior Thesis in Political Science
ASSIGNMENT: Argument

Due Friday, October 13 by 5:00PM e-mail: mag@cpp.edu
No late assignments will be accepted.

The bulk of the next two quarters is dedicated to formulating a strong **argument** that you defend through a carefully constructed research design. An argument must address a clear research question, but the argument itself must be clearly constructed, easily accessible, and transparent. In addition, you should be able to establish whether or not there is enough convincing evidence to sustain that argument.

Parameters:

- Format specified below
- One page maximum
- Single-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- File must be in .doc or .docx format

For this assignment, please structure your paper with the following bolded headings, but answer the questions according to your own projects:

Research Question: What is the research question under examination? (one sentence)

Argument: State your argument, which directly answers this question in a one or two sentence statement. (one sentence)

Importance (No longer than 2 lines of single-spaced text)

Why is your question important? How do you think have other scholars examined these ideas? Why do you think your contribution advances our way of thinking about this question?

Causal Mechanism (No longer than 2 lines of single-spaced text)

What is the causal relationship that you are investigating? How do your two concepts relate to one another? What is the logic behind this relationship? Can you highlight the cause and effect for the reader?

The Proof (No longer than a paragraph of single-spaced text)

Thinking to winter quarter, by what means will you intend to prove this argument? How will you collect your evidence? What is your chosen methodology? Does this evidence that you want to collect exist and is it readily available to you? *It is okay to be unsure and imprecise. The key is to ask questions if you're unsure and let your mind go through this process in formulating a research plan.*