Argumentative VS Research Writing

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## Argumentative Writing

**Focus:**
Thesis/antithesis-driven writing that focuses on the writer's particular opinion and position on a debatable topic.

**Audience:**
Argumentative writing focuses on audience perception. The audience is often a particular group that you wish to convince. Keep in mind who you are writing to. Audience influence is more active.

**Evidence:**
Uses research to support the writer's personal claim. Doesn't usually require deep research of the topic, but does require evidence for the antithesis or opposing side.

**Format:**
Usually has a minimum of 5 parts: introduction, the main body (3+ paragraphs), and a conclusion.

Does not require use of headers/subheaders

## Research Writing

**Focus:**
Research-driven writing that focuses on a particular research question and a thesis based on that answer to that question. The writer should also demonstrate a final conclusion based on data and research.

**Audience:**
The audience is usually someone within the academic field. The goal is to explain your methods rather than convince the audience of something. Audience influence is more passive.

**Evidence:**
Presents other researchers' perceptions of the subject as well as your conclusions on the topic. Usually requires the ability to analyze and synthesize many pieces of in-depth research on a topic—often utilizes a Literature Review section to expand on this research work.

**Format:**
Generally Longer: title page, abstract (summary), introduction, literature review, the main body (which includes methodology, data, discussion, and results), and finally a conclusion, acknowledgments, and references. Often uses headers and subheaders

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**How the Writing Center Can Help:**

- Assistance with outlining and planning any time!
- In depth resources on Argumentative and Research Writing!