Political Science 12

Research Paper Assignment

For your research essay, **you will take up the argument you developed in your “op-ed” assignment**(\*) and expand it into a researched, academic paper. This paper (6-8 double-spaced, 11-12 pt font, about 1500 words, in a consistent Chicago-Author citation style) will be graded on a variety of factors, including argumentation, research, organization, style, grammar, spelling and punctuation. The essay must contain an introduction with a concise **thesis statement**. Even though it is only a single sentence, the thesis is the most important part of a paper. It should clearly explain clearly the argument advanced by your paper so that your reader knows in advance what to expect in the pages that follow. **All of the research findings and ideas that you present in your paper should be organized in a clear and compelling manner and should contribute to demonstrating your thesis.**

**Due Date(s):**

* Proposal and Preliminary Research Findings – Tuesday, May 1st, 2018
* Research Paper Presentation – Thursday/Friday, May 10th/11th, 2018
* Draft Essay and Peer Review/Edit – May 15th, 2018
* Final Draft – Thursday, May 22nd, 2018

**This research paper will constitute 20% of your assessment for this course (PSC 12).**

**Requirements for Research:**

For the purposes of this research paper, you must fulfill the following criteria – as it pertains to research:

* At least **four peer-reviewed** sources (that’s from academic journals, specifically)
* At least **one relevant book** on the topic (and obviously referenced in your paper…)
* All citations (footnotes, bibliography) in Chicago-Author Style (see handout)

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Communicate an opinion about a current event to a broad audience
* Argumentation, research, organization, style, grammar spelling and punctuation
* Must contain an introduction with a concise thesis statement that also advances what to expect in the pages that follow
* All ideas, concepts, definitions, facts, and figures must be cited
* Citations as per above and in Chicago-Author Style

**This is a required assignment.**