

The Independent Study Project is a study project which students pursue throughout the term. It is to be related to a topic of the student's choice, as long as it is associated with a legal issue.

Overview:

The student will select a contemporary issue which (s)he feels is a topic of concern for the legal system. It is best if the student selects a topic which is presently in a state of change, development, debate, or controversy. Pick up the latest copies of several news magazines, watch W5, the Fifth Estate or 60 Minutes, or listen to CBC Radio or AM Talk Radio shows to generate ideas.

All topics must be discussed with, and authorized by, Mr. Aldunate by: Nov 16th

Components of the Independent Study

There will be a number of components required for the completion of this ISU. The various components reflect the process and product nature of the ISU. Moreover, all components are important and will be evaluated accordingly.

The ISU will culminate in an **argumentative essay** 5-6 pages in length (MLA format).

Assignment	Mark Value	Due Date:
Proposal	5	Nov 17
Annotated Bibliography	20	Dec 1
a. Thesis b. Relevant Law	5 5	Dec 8
Essay Outline	25	Dec 15
Final Essay	100	Jan 6

What is an Argumentative Essay?

The point of an argumentative essay is to convince others to agree with our facts, accept our argument and conclusions, and hopefully adopt our way of thinking.

The strength of your argument will lie both in your research and the manner in which you present it. This will require investigating a topic, collecting and evaluating evidence, and establishing a position on the topic in a concise manner. The force of your argument weighs heavily on the facts you have selected. Thus your essay will be judged on its style and substance.

Examples of Past Independent Study Topics

Topic	Focus of Arguments
Canadian life sentences	Life sentences longer than 25 years impede rehabilitation while offering no substantial benefit to society.
Parole for Violent Offenders	In order to ensure the safety of law-abiding citizens, criminals convicted of violent crimes should not be eligible for parole.
Health Care	A two-tiered health care system would benefit tax payers, consumers of private medical care, and consumers of public medical care.
Deportation of Dangerous Offenders	Immigration Canada has not done enough to deport serious criminals.
Steroid use in Sports	Due to the serious health risks associated with long-term steroid use, steroids should be illegal to use or possess.
Abortion	Obtaining an abortion should be a criminal offence unless the pregnancy poses a health risk to the mother.
Euthanasia	Neither passive nor active euthanasia should be a criminal offence in Canada.