

CRJ Writing Assignments

Guidelines—Suggestions--Helpful Information

Some reminders and helpful information: The required page count is to allow enough space for sufficient detail and analysis of the issues. It would be difficult for less than this requirement to accomplish this. Academic writing should remain in the third person (not the first person), should be free of contractions like "can't and don't" and should avoid informal language. Personal opinions, while interesting, cannot be graded. When including a personal point of view (which is not required), in order to frame an issue, that point of view must be followed by researched data and information that is cited. This information should come from scholarly books/articles. In terms of reference sources please include our textbook (and other course materials if appropriate) as a primary source in addition to outside course material references as well. Please keep use of internet/website references to a minimum. However, well researched scholarly information is available on some websites so use of this can be appropriate (think .gov and .org). For instance research published by the U.S. Department of Justice, and posted on their website is acceptable, as are research articles/studies aggregated on a website from an organization focused on a criminal justice (or other relevant) issue. Articles from Huffington Post, Vox, Atlantic Monthly or other sites of that nature might also mention research in an article they have posted. When that occurs it is better to cite the actual primary research than the website itself. Summary information from history sites may not be vetted, so use at your own risk, if at all. If you have any questions regarding references, or use of them, please let me know. When citing reference information it is important to synthesize and paraphrase the information into your own words, not just in long direct quotes. I will post examples of how to do this in module section of Canvas. It is to your benefit to read it.