Independent Study Unit: Research Essay

As a culminating summative task for this course you will be required to write a research essay. As part of the process for this essay you will be required to complete in-depth research, take efficient and useful notes, create and defend a clear thesis, analyze the research, and finally, organize this research into an articulate and thought-provoking piece that includes proper and accurate documentation.

You will choose a current issue related to food and nutrition. Issues could be related to such things as (but not limited to): food marketing, eating vegans/vegetarians, local/national/world hunger, food insecurity, food safety, genetically modified foods, irradiation, food additives, pesticides, bioengineering, organic farming or fair trade. You must write a 1500 word essay. Because of the scientific nature of some of the issues, graphs or statistical data might be a useful addition to your essay.

The following are the steps required to complete the assignment and the marks associated with those steps:

1. You must get approval for the subject you wish to research.

2. Research Notes: you will be required to submit your notes taken during research on the sheet provided. These notes should be in point form and in your own words (paraphrase), except for direct quotes, to avoid plagiarism. Include your sources and page numbers from those sources in your notes. At this stage you will also need to develop a clear and succinct thesis statement. Categorize your research notes into the three arguments that will support this thesis (25 marks).

3. Final Essay: the final essay will not be accepted if you have not submitted the research notes and essay outline and received feedback from me (90 marks).

Note: At any stage of this process you are encouraged to discuss any questions you might have or ask for clarification. I will gladly provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

HFA4M

Independent Study Unit: Essay Grading Format Rubric

Name: ____________________________  Mark /90

1. Title Page (3)  essay title; student name; school name; instructors name; due date; running head; page number

2. Page Numbering (1)  running head on all pages; number on all pages including title page and works cited page

3. Legibility (1)  double spaced

4. References (5)  quality of resources used; separate references page used; correct format

5. Documentation (5)  use of references; appropriate usage; appropriate placement; correct format

6. Language Usage (10)  spelling and grammar; punctuation; sentence structure; paragraph structure

7. Introduction (10)  topic clearly indicated; thesis statement evident, insightful and original; premise topics presented; interesting

8. Content (30)  content is relevant to thesis statement; arguments support thesis; strong evidence; sufficient content; appropriate length and depth of research and analysis

9. Conclusion (5)  thesis statement restated; premises revisited; interesting

10. Style (20)  readable; balanced presentation of premises; logical presentation of information; thesis statement supported objectively; strong topic sentences and transitions; mature diction; fluent wording; sentence variety