## Political Science Tip Sheet

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>AUDIENCE</strong></th>
<th>● Informed within political science realm, but little to no knowledge of specific topic</th>
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| **PURPOSE**  | ● Develop understanding of topic/issue  
● Depends on type of writing:  
● Objective writing focuses on facts in order to inform audience  
● Persuasive writing uses facts to create an argument |
| **TONE/Voice** | ● Clear, informed, scholarly  
● Personal reflections and autobiographical material are acceptable, but must connect to and enhance the argument. |
| **STRUCTURE** | ● Present thesis early on  
● Integrate counter argument throughout  
● Build each theory/concept on previous idea  
● Explain logic to the reader every step of the way |
| **RESEARCH/SOURCES** | ● Two types of sources:  
   ○ Open-world sources gathered by student  
   ○ Closed-world sources selected by professor (restricts where students can get information)  
● Arguments developed in class discussions  
● Legitimate publications (LA Times, NY Times, etc.) and academic journals  
● Objective papers:  
   ○ Predominant use of facts to provide information about a particular topic/issue  
● Persuasive papers:  
   ○ Facts as tools for arguing positions  
   ○ Predominantly analysis |
| **SOURCE INTEGRATION** | ● Introduce and analyze source material  
● Use direct quotes sparingly; paraphrase and reference instead.  
● Synthesize information and theories from in-class texts |
| **CITATION/STYLE** | ● Chicago style  
● Title page, sometimes with an abstract  
● Double-spaced  
● Single space after punctuation  
● Pages are numbered in upper-right hand corner (last name, pg #).  
● Bibliography  
● Block quotes are single-spaced. |
| **WRITING RESOURCES** | ● *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and* |

*St Mary’s College*  
*CWAC: Center for Writing Across the Curriculum*
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<td><em>Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers, 7th Ed.</em>, Turabian.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● <em>Writing Research Papers Across the Curriculum, 5th Ed.</em>, Hubbuch.</td>
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