Number Systems - Research Paper

In a well-researched essay, discuss the value of your own (invented) number system in relation to at least three other (actual) systems. The purpose of this essay, ultimately, is to convince the reader to agree with your own assessment, and adopt your number system. HOWEVER, this discussion should include several important elements:

1. A short discussion of why choosing a number system is important. Here you are addressing the “so what” question in relation to the subject of number systems.

2. A careful, thoughtful, and balanced presentation of three, major number systems—identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each. NOTE: One of the three systems must be from your own research (only two may be drawn from the textbook and class lecture).

3. A clear, and organized explanation of your own number system – how it is represented, how it works, etc.

4. A rhetorically effective argument for the universal adoption of your own system. Be sure to include specific examples/comparisons of the advantages of your system over the others you have discussed earlier.

In short, explain the importance of number systems, provide some specific examples from history, present your own system, and argue for it.

The research paper is the culminating assignment in this course. In it, you will need to demonstrate proficiency with nearly every skill we have covered this semester. You will need to provide an analysis of multiple number systems. You will need to consider what persuasive strategies to employ in your argument. You will need to demonstrate a high level of proficiency with the conventions and “moves” in academic writing (think of They Say/I Say). Finally, you will need to guide your own research and incorporate the words and thoughts of others into an original argument of your own.

Remember, your topic is determined by the work you do in the Math 120 portion of the link. You will follow up on, with a research paper, the invention work that you begin in Math 120.

This paper should be 7-8 pages long, double-spaced, 12pt font, Times New Roman. In addition, you must have a separate works cited page with no fewer than four sources.

This paper (particularly your in-text citations and your works cited page) MUST be formatted in the MLA style. There is a link on Blackboard to the OWL website which provides free access to MLA formatting information.

Remember, the surest way to help yourself succeed is to bring rough drafts to me for review and discussion. Get to work right away, and check in with me often!

Good luck and have fun!