**Government Research Paper**

**Due: End of class on Monday, December 18th**

Students will research an issue and what makes it controversial to people (i.e. pros/cons, positives/negatives, costs/benefits, etc.) and write a paper. The paper should gather current articles on a controversial government-related topic and use them to write an organized, well-cited paper that explains and supports your stance on the issue.

**The Paper**

* At least 3 pages typed
* 1.5 spacing
* 12 pt. Font, Arial or Times New Roman
* Regular formatted margins
* What is your topic and what are the issues surrounding it? (Define it)
* What is your stance on this topic? (Thesis)
* What are the arguments for why you have this stance? (Arguments/Body Paragraphs)
* What is the research that supports your arguments? (Evidence)
  + include 5 current event ***articles***, dated after January 1, 2014
  + all 5 articles must be **submitted** at the end of the paper
* Include citations and any visuals (i.e. pictures, charts, graphs, lists, etc.) that will help explain the issue
* must have a title page and works cited page

**Point Value:** **Worth 125 points total for end product (due 12/18)**

The paper must be turned in on time. Any papers turned in the following school day will be marked down 10%, and an additional for each school day the paper is late.

**Format of Current Event Article: DUE: 1st 12/8, 2nd & 3rd 12/11, 4th & 5th 12/13**

Articles should be from a credible news outlet. Some examples include: New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, FOX or from a research database from the Samohi library website. *Articles write ups are worth 5 points each.*

On due dates you need to turn in the article (or copy of it) and an article write up with the following information:

**Author** (last name first)

**Title of Article**

**Name of source** (ex. Los Angeles Times)

**Date of source** (the date the piece was written, not printed or updated)

**Page of article**, if applicable

**Synopsis** several sentences

**How does it affect the government**, several sentences

**Conclusion**: what do you think about the author’s argument and additional information you like to know after reading this article?

**Thesis: DUE: Working Thesis 12/7**

At the end of your first paragraph should be your underlined or highlighted thesis statement. This sentence should guide the reader throughout your paper and include what your stance is on this topic.

**Citations:**

When you cite information, quote somebody, or use somebody’s distinct idea, you must include a MLA note at the end of the sentence indicating your source. At the end of your paper you must include a Works Cited page listing all of your sources used. This should be in alphabetical order by author’s last name.

**Works Cited:**

The Samohi Library website has a Citation Generator link that you should use. Be sure to use the MLA format.

Do not wait until the last minute. **There will be absolutely no excuses accepted for late papers without penalty.**

**Suggested Government Questions/Topics**

Should Juveniles be given life in prison without parole for heinous crimes?

Should the government pass a law that prohibits deficit spending?

Should the University of California system re-in state affirmative action to insure minority enrollment that reflects the state’s population?

Should the U.S. increase spending for space exploration? (Manned flights)

Should the U.S. continue to provide military support for non-democratic nations?

Should the U.S. use various forms of torture to combat terrorism?

Should the U.S. allow euthanasia of terminally ill individuals?

Should the U.S. have a socialized healthcare system?

Should taxes be raised on the top 1% of income earners?

Should we have a higher federal minimum wage?

Should animals be subject to drug experimentation to save human lives?

Should “Citizens United” court case be reversed?

Should the retirement age be raised to save Social Security?

Should Title IX be reformed to allow more men’s sports in college?

Should term limits be imposed on federal Senators or Representatives?

Abortion Affirmative Action Animal Rights Censorship

Civil Liberties Cyber Crime Discrimination Energy Deregulation

Euthanasia Evolution v. Creation Extremist Groups

Food Safety Foreign Aid Freedom of Press Gas Prices

Genetic Engineering Net Neutrality Genetically Modified Foods

Global Warming Gun Control Hate Crimes Hate Speech

Hazing Health Care Holistic Medicine Homelessness

Homeland Security Hunger Immigration Juvenile Sentencing

Mental Illness Minimum Wage NAFTA National Debt

Police Brutality Pollution Poverty Racial Profiling

Recycling Same Sex Marriage School Shootings Second Hand Smoke

Social Security Stem Cell Research Tobacco Advertising

Torture Toxic Waste Unemployment War on Drugs

Welfare Reform Women in Combat

**Term Paper Scoring Guide**

1. Typed, title page and attached in order 0-3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Followed guidelines for margins, spacing, 0-2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and page requirements

3. Thesis statement in introduction clearly

stating the position of the paper and ***highlighted*** 0-5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Explanation of the issue (content) 0-20 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Effective stating your opinion 0-45 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**and** defending your position

***Grammar and*** ***Mechanics***

6. Sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, 0-5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

capitalization, etc.

7. Overall paper reads smoothly; arguments are 0-10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clear; good sentence variety and vocabulary

8. All articles submitted and numbered with analysis

& Citations in the paper (5) 0-25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Works Citation*** MLA Format0-10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***TOTAL POINTS* 125/** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Government Paper Due Dates Check List**

**Final Paper DUE Monday, December 18th**

**Thesis & Background information completed 12/7 \_\_\_\_\_**

**1st article of support printed and write-up complete 12/8 \_\_\_\_\_**

**2nd & 3rd articles of support printed and write-up complete 12/11 \_\_\_\_\_**

**4th & 5th articles of support printed and write-up complete 12/13 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Introduction with working thesis completed 12/13 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Body paragraphs completed 12/14 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Conclusion & paper printed for peer editing 12/15 \_\_\_\_\_**

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