Controversial-Issue Research Project

Requirements:

1.) Ten sources must be cited within the paper for a student to receive an A on the project. The bibliographic information must be put into Noodle Tools and include an annotation. The annotated bibliography will be due before you start creating note cards.

- At least eight of the sources should come from databases.

- At least one primary source should be used. Most of the databases will provide primary sources within their search results. A primary source may include a primary document or image. It will include a first-hand account of the issue. I will also allow you to complete primary research in order to fulfill this requirement. Primary research might include surveys (Survey Monkey is a great tool), interviews (with an expert), observations, or analyses. See the following website about primary research from Purdue’s Online Writing Lab (OWL): https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/559/01/

- Internet sites should be used sparingly and need to be approved by me. Websites suggested by the databases are typically legitimate.

- You may use other sources: books, documentaries, pamphlets, lectures, etc.

2) 40 note cards on Noodle Tools.

- Each card should contain 3-5 sentences, outside of direct quotations.

- Any direct quotation should be accompanied by a proper paraphrase or summary. Please take notes carefully in order to prevent unintentional plagiarism. Plagiarized sections of your paper will receive no credit. Keep track of the source of all of your statistics, evidence, etc.

3.) Assertive, argumentative thesis that argues one side (pro or con) of a controversial, provocative, relevant, and current issue. The essay must be an argumentative one, not an expository piece or a report.

- Example of a poor thesis: Teenage suicide is a horrific issue, and schools should take measures to prevent it. (Too vague and not controversial—who would argue against it? There is no con side.)

4.) 8-paragraph research paper written in MLA format.

- Introduction (includes thesis, which will not be three-prong)

- 6 body paragraphs
First two paragraphs must be rebuttal paragraphs. You will bring up a con to your argument and address that con’s weaknesses, thus refuting the opposition’s claim.

The other four paragraphs do not necessarily need to address the opposition, but they should provide evidence, statistics, and research to support your claim. Stay away from using just emotional appeal.

• Conclusion—may suggest a solution or a call to action.

5.) Works Cited (exported from Noodle Tools)

6.) Presentation/debate (see rubric)