Develop an argument about a controversial issue (see list). Consider the following questions in developing your argument: What is the issue? How is it being handled? What is your stance on the issue? Your THESIS should answer these questions. Two body paragraphs will be your reasons why and the third body paragraph will be a counterargument. You must include a minimum of two pieces of factual evidence in each paragraph to support each claim**.**

Task: Brainstorm and research ideas on this subject. Then synthesize the information from at least four different sources and incorporate it into a coherent, well-developed essay that argues your position on your topic?

Your argument should be the focus of your essay. Use your research sources to develop you argument and explain your reasoning for it. Avoid merely summarizing your research. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from through direct quotes and/or paraphrases; cite your sources using APA formatting.

* **Schedule (Due Dates)**

1. **BRAINSTORMING**
2. **THESIS STATEMENT**
3. **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**
4. **ANNOTATED SOURCES**
5. **FORMAL OUTLINE**
6. **FIRST DRAFT WITH A REFERENCES PAGE**
7. **FINAL DRAFT EXTRA CREDIT**
8. **FINAL DRAFT**

* **Non-Negotiables:**

1. **Due Date**: ALL papers are due ON or BEFORE the due date. Any late papers will receive 10% off per day late. If you are absent because of serious illness or other excused reason, your final draft must still be submitted to turnitin.com by the due date and you MUST turn it in immediately upon your return along with an excuse note from the front office. The paper will be considered late without an excuse note.
2. I will not enter a grade into the gradebook without the paper being submitted to turnitin.com
3. Plagiarism in any form, **no matter how small the amount plagiarized**, will earn the writer a "0" on the research paper.

* **General Final Paper Requirements:** 
  1. Length: Essay organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion, and in CEI format. The body section must have a minimum of three paragraphs with a minimum of 5 pieces of evidence from 3 different sources.
  2. Typed, APA format.
  3. References page included last in proper APA format.
  4. All process elements must be completed and graded for final to be accepted and graded.
  5. You will turn in a digital copy to turnitin.com and a hard copy to me. **Both copies are due on the due date!**

**Power of Persuasion Research Paper and Speech**

Conspiracy Theories: fact or fake?

*This unit’s Embedded Assessment (SpringBoard) requires that students research, write and present an original paper & speech that addresses a contemporary issues. Below is a list of student and teacher generated topics to choose from. For each topic there is a limit on the number of students who may choose the topic. Some topics may be altered/deleted based upon teacher discretion. Keep in mind that your research topic will also be your speech topic. Choose topics that you are interested in learning more about.*

Research Question: Is/Are \_\_\_\_\_(insert conspiracy theory)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ valid or invalid?

Sub questions to consider while researching. Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? What makes conspiracy theories controversial?

Task: Research a popular conspiracy theory from the list below. Argue for or against its validity using evidence from your research to support your position.

1. 9-11
2. Secret Societies Control the World (Illuminati, New World Order, Free Masons, etc.)
3. The Mood Landings Were Faked
4. Area 51 and Aliens
5. Tupac Shakur Death
6. Shakespeare didn’t write his own plays
7. Paul McCartney
8. Men and Black
9. CIA and AIDS
10. Princess Dianna’s Death
11. Climate Change
12. The Tuskegee Experiment
13. Deflate Gate (Tom Brady)
14. Michael Jordan’s First Retirement
15. Cassius Clay's triumph over Sonny Liston
16. JFK

\*\*\*If you have a theory that is not listed, but you are interested in researching please see the teacher\*\*\*

From good to great…

Before you turn in your paper, go through the following checklist and make sure you can confidently check off the following items:

* I have only used 3rd person POV and have NO 1st person pronouns unless it is part of a quote
* My thesis statement is clear, evident, and one-sided
* My claims are more specific, sub-elements of my claim
* My interpretations are not summaries
* My quotations further develop my argument and do not simply restate it
* My paper does not contain any contractions
* My paper’s diction is formal
* My paper’s diction is purposeful and precise (avoid boring words..said, good, bad, talks about, this shows, this means, etc.)
* All of my quotes are introduced
* My evidence is properly cited using APA format (author’s last name, publishing date)
* I referred to my sources’ authors by their last names
* My title is creative
* My intro paragraph and my conclusion paragraph are more than 2 sentences and are specific about what I’m going to talk about/have talked about
* I have read my paper out loud to myself and made sure there are no awkwardly worded sentences
* There are no fragments in my paper
* I do not have any rhetorical questions

Guide to APA formatting

1. Refer to Owl Perdue for detailed assistance on how to format your paper (<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html>)
2. They also have a YouTube channel: ( https://youtu.be/pdAfIqRt60c)
3. Once it takes you to the screen with your projects, go to the very top left hand corner and click on the button that has three lines. Click on “Title Page Maker.” Where it says “Title” enter in the title of your paper. Do not worry about a subtitle. Enter in a running head, your name, and institution (Hillgrove High School). Next, click “Create Title Page.” This should be the FIRST page of your paper. Remember this is APA formatting so this takes the place of an MLA header. YOU DO NOT NEED AN MLA HEADER!
4. As you’re going through and finding sources be sure to cite them through EasyBib. These will end up on your last page of your paper entitled, “References”
5. You might see something about an abstract. You do not need this.
6. When you cite sources, the only difference between MLA and APA is that instead of using the page number you use the year of publication AND add a comma. For example, (Bell, 2018).
7. Other than those things everything should be the same. So, 12 point Times New Roman double-spaced font with 1 inch margins.

Step 1: In-depth Brainstorming (10 points)

Due date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the table below pick two of the provided topics and brainstorm potential ideas for your paper. Remember to think about both sides of the argument as you do need to include a counter argument in your paper. You should have at least 3 details in each box. Include details of where you found your information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Potential Topic #1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Pros/Yes side | Potential Topic #2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Pros/Yes side |
|  |  |
| Potential Topic #1:  Cons/No side | Potential Topic #2:  Cons/No side |
|  |  |

Step 2: Primary Claim/Thesis statement (10 points)

Due date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Once you have officially chosen your topic and completed some general research, compose a primary claim that will eventually lead to your thesis statement. As you continue to research and learn more information about your topic, you may decide to revise it before writing your final paper.

Research Question:

**Is/Are \_\_\_\_\_(insert conspiracy theory)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ valid or invalid?**

Sub questions to consider while researching: *Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? What makes conspiracy theories controversial?*

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**Primary Claim** – the answer to the research question (this will become your thesis statement after you complete some research)

**Example:** The idea that lizard people have infiltrated the world is a concept that lacks validity.

Your Turn: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**------------------------------------------------------------**

**Thesis Statement:**

See the example thesis statement for your reference

**Example:** Although conspiracy theories continue to be controversial throughout society, the idea that lizard people have infiltrated the world is a concept that lacks validity and needs to be dispelled.

Your thesis statement here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Step 3: Annotated Bibliography (30 points)

For this step, you will create your references page just like normal. Underneath each citation you will write a paragraph answering the following questions:

* + 1. A brief summary of the source
    2. An evaluation of the article using the standards of the CRAAP test
    3. An explanation of how this particular text can be used to develop an argument in response to the prompt.

IMPORTANT: To create your references page make sure you delete your paragraphs (annotations) first. All you have to do is use the same document that you use for this step and delete the paragraphs.

Step 4: Formal Paper (100 points)

This is where it all comes together. Refer back to the first few pages of this packet for your guidelines. REMEMBER: 2 of your body paragraphs are CEIEI and 1 is CEI. It’s up to you how you want to organize it.

Read over the rubric on the next page before turning in.

Step 5: Speech (50 points)

You will create a 3-5 minute speech arguing for or against your topic. This does not mean you will be reading your paper. No visual is necessary, but you can make a poster for up to 10 bonus points. Feel free to use note cards for guidance but do NOT read straight from them.

**Research Paper Step 3: Due by**

**Annotated Bibliography Page (This becomes your References page!)**

* Any source you consult in your preliminary research that relates to your final chosen research topic should be on your Annotated Bibliography page. *Not* *everything* you research and read should be here, just those sources you are 90% sure you want to use in your final essay. *Not* *every* source you have here must be in your final essay.
* At least **5/FIVE** sources are required for the Annotated Bibliography page. There should be a variety of source information. This means a variety of authors, publications, and perspectives (You should address the counter-argument, so you should have research for the opposing view to your argument.)
* Each source should be represented through an APA citation and should be followed by a brief summary of the source as detailed below and on the example page.
  + The summary should answer the following questions:
    - A brief summary of the source
    - An evaluation of the article using the standards of the CRAAP test
    - An explanation of how this particular text can be used to develop an argument in response to the prompt.
* This should follow the APA format rules for a References page.

**EXAMPLE**

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 1

Annotated Bibliography

Vedder, Richard. (2012). "Why College Isn't For Everyone." *Business Source Complete*. *4.* Retrieved from http://www. Businesssource.com/

***Summary with all of the questions are answered as required.***

***Without fulfilling these requirements you will not receive full credit and are only limiting your ability to do well on the final paper!***

"Introduction to American Values: Opposing Viewpoints." (2009). *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Retrieved from http://www.articlehomepage.com/fullurl/

***Summary with all of the questions are answered as required.***

***Without fulfilling these requirements you will not receive full credit and are only limiting your ability to do well on the final paper!***