

CURRENT TOPICS CHECKLIST

A PEER REVIEWER WILL REVIEW YOUR WORK AND HIGHLIGHT THEIR ASSESSMENT

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| ASSIGNMENT OWNER | | |
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PLEASE USE A HIGHLIGHTER TO MARK ANSWERS

| COMPLETE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IF A QUESTION IS NOT ANSWERED, IT AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVES A "NO" TO RECEIVE A "YES" FOR AN ENTRY, SENTENCES MUST MEET PROPER CONVENTION STANDARDS | | | | | |
|---|--|------------|----|------------|----|
| | | ARTICLE #2 | | ARTICLE #3 | |
| QUESTION #1 | Who or what is the subject of the article? This should not only discuss the "BIG" umbrella topic (same sex marriage) but the specific issue being covered (Will Washington State's Legislature pass the bill? The answer should have some specificity to what the article is about, as most issues are too big to cover in one news report and deal with a focused aspect of a debatable topic. | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| QUESTION #2 | What is the context of the article? <i>Context means circumstances around an event. This answer should include:</i> a) <i>Why is this issue being reported on now?</i> b) <i>Where is the issue taking place? (state, city, country)</i> c) <i>Are there any recent related events that inform this issue?</i> d) <i>Time frame of issue: Is this issue a recent development? If not, there should be a brief history of the topic.</i> | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| QUESTION #3 | How and why is the contemporary topic debatable? <i>This should include WHY the topic has disagreement, not simply that there are two sides. Does the answer include a general explanation of what the main points of disagreement are?</i> | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| QUESTION #4 | Who are the various parties related to the contemporary topic and what are their positions? <i>This should not only name the different parties but explain who they are and how they are connected to the issue. What is it about the issue that makes people disagree?</i> | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| QUESTION #5 | Does the article contain any implicit biases? If so, where and how? <i>The definition of bias is: "prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair." An article that is <u>biased</u> is said to favor one side of an issue over another.</i> | YES | NO | YES | NO |
| QUESTION #6 | How would the article be cited, using MLA format? <i>It is important that MLA format is done following the examples <u>exactly</u> and should always start with the last name. The full URL should be listed. Does it follow the examples in the <i>Grammar Text</i>? If any of these answers are no, you should select NO.</i> | YES | NO | YES | NO |

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| REVIEWED BY (FIRST AND LAST NAME): | |
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| ANALYSIS (REFLECTION TEXT) | | | |
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| TWO CITATIONS FROM TWO ARTICLES HIGHLIGHTED | This is evidence that is used in the analysis to help support the thesis and conclusion regarding the position you are taking regarding the issue you have studied | YES | NO |
| HIGHLIGHT THESIS STATEMENT | The analysis should contain a clear thesis statement with: TOPIC, ARGUMENT, SIGNIFICANCE. There should be a clear side of the issue chosen, and not an equivocation selecting agreement with both sides of the issue. No sitting on the fence! | YES | NO |
| RESPONSE ANALYSIS WRITING IS ARGUMENT AND NOT SUMMARY? | <p>-->When you <u>summarize</u>, you condense the main points of the reading and you do not include any personal opinions about the content. To summarize a passage or article, you "parrot back" the content of a reading.</p> <p>-->When you <u>analyze</u> you break down the reading into various parts and <u>explain</u> the various parts.</p> <p>--> When you <u>respond</u> you state your overall reaction to the content and support your argument with specific reasons and examples from the text</p> <p>Does the response analysis present ALL 3 ELEMENTS:</p> <p>1) a specific position regarding the issue AND</p> <p>2) discuss how the author came to this position from the articles that they studied AND</p> <p>3) use specific evidence from 2 articles giving <u>reasoning evidence</u> as to why the writer sided with one position over the other?</p> | YES | NO |
| GRADE LEVEL WRITING STANDARDS | <p>Does the analysis text have two separate paragraphs?</p> <p>Does the writing use mostly proper capitalization and punctuation?</p> <p>Do the sentences read correctly and meet standard English Language Conventions?</p> <p>Are there no more than 4 spelling errors?</p> | YES | NO |

| ARTICLE SELECTION | | | |
|--|---|-----|----|
| REPUTABLE NEWS SOURCE | Are each of the articles from a <u>reputable news source</u> and do each of them have <u>an author of the article indicated</u> with a byline? | YES | NO |
| COMMON TOPIC | Do all of the articles cover the same specific topic? There shouldn't be any "side issue" articles, all of them should have the same common main idea and focus. | YES | NO |
| YES = NO BLOGS FOR ARTICLES (leave blank if unsure) | None of the sources of articles should be from blogs. "A blog is a personal journal published on the World Wide Web . . . Blogs are usually the work of a single individual , occasionally of a small group, and often are themed on a single subject ." [Wikipedia] | YES | NO |

| THOROUGHNESS OF PACKET | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----|----|
| MLA FORMAT #1 | <p>Is there a cover page for the packet?</p> <p>Does the cover page follow the example for MLA format exactly as it is on the instructions?</p> | YES | NO |
| MLA FORMAT #2 | Do each of the question page entries have MLA format heading at the top left of the paper? | YES | NO |
| COPIES OF ARTICLES | Is there only 1 page -- the first page -- included for each article discussed? There should not be more than one page of any article. | YES | NO |
| PACKET ORDER | Articles and text should be ordered with first article first and analysis at the end of the packet. | YES | NO |

PREPARING THE PACKET

Check off each item as you complete it for your packet

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| HIGHLIGHT EVIDENCE (CITATIONS) FROM 2 ARTICLES IN ANALYSIS TEXT | Ensure that you have a Project Calendar set that determines working and non-working days for the project. Make sure you set non-working days for company recognized and public holidays. Otherwise, you will be behind schedule from the start of the project. <i>Go to "Tools, Change Working Time" to access the Project Calendar.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| UN THESIS STATEMENT | Your analysis is required to take a position on the topic. A good thesis statement has the following elements: TOPIC, ARGUMENT, SIGNIFICANCE. You should try to put this into one sentence but no more than two. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HIGHLIGHT AUTHORS NAME (REPORTERS) FOR EACH ARTICLE | Each article should have an author, helping to insure it is from a reputable news source. Highlight their name on the page of the article if it is there. If the author of your a | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NEW TOPIC | Your articles should be covering <u>a new topic from your previous issue last month</u> . You should not select the same issue more than twice during the course of the school year. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CONTEMPORARY TOPICS COVER PAGE

NAME _____

My Contemporary Topic is _____

Packet Due Date: FRIDAY _____

| PREPARING THE PACKET Check off each item as you complete it for your packet | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| HIGHLIGHT EVIDENCE (CITATIONS) FROM 2 ARTICLES IN ANALYSIS TEXT | <p>This is evidence that is used in the analysis to support the thesis and conclusion regarding the position you are taking regarding the issue you have studied.</p> <p>Make sure that you use one of the following formats for citing your evidence:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">•</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| THESIS STATEMENT | Your analysis is required to take a position on the topic. A good thesis statement has the following elements: TOPIC, ARGUMENT, SIGNIFICANCE. You should try to put this into one sentence but no more than two. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HIGHLIGHT AUTHORS NAME (REPORTERS) FOR EACH ARTICLE | Each article should have an author, helping to insure it is from a reputable news source. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NEW TOPIC | Your articles should be covering <u>a new topic from your previous issue last month</u> . You should not select the same issue more than twice during the course of the school year. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

All Current Topics work is reviewed by the teacher. If you feel an element was inaccurately scored, write down the element and explain why you think it was not scored correctly. If appropriate, highlight (in a different color) in your work where you feel you completed all the elements of the requirement

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