

### Rationale

Two milestones loom ahead: your first AP English exam and your entry into adulthood. Both require that you become an informed citizen, one who can discuss with relative ease the issues that face the world today. This assignment is designed to allow you to research an issue that you feel is significant. While researching the various aspects of your topic, you should be working toward drawing some conclusions about the impact that your issue will have on the world in which we live -- be it locally, nationally, or globally.

### Writing Situation

Contemporary life is marked by controversy. Choose a controversial local, national, or global issue with which you are familiar or interested. Then, using appropriate evidence, write an essay that carefully considers the opposing positions on this controversy, takes a position on the issue, and proposes a solution or compromise.

### Activities

1. Deconstruct the writing situation. Do you understand what you are being asked to do as a writer? Choose an issue and write a short paragraph explaining a) why this topic is of interest to you and b) why this topic is worthy of further study. **THIS PARAGRAPH (should be typed) IS DUE TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM ON Monday, March 25 .**
2. Gather articles that explore your issue from several perspectives.
  - (a) Collect **at least 4 articles or editorials** and **at least 1 visual source (cartoon, chart, graph)** from reputable magazines (*Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report*) or newspapers (*New York Times, Washington Post, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* -- local/regional issues only).
  - (b) You may access articles from other sources, but verify with me that the source is reputable.
  - (c) You may use the internet to gather your information, but, again, you should only use articles posted on reputable sites.
  - (d) **YOU MAY NOT USE WIKIPEDIA or procon.org (or similar generic sites) for this assignment.**
  - (e) Another option to consider would be to watch a news program on television or to listen to one on the radio (particularly NPR -- 90.1 locally). If you choose that option, then you should a) record it so that you can view it or listen to it repeatedly and b) take accurate, copious notes.
  - (f) You might also take a look through the many **free** podcasts that are available for download.
  - (g) **Your evidence must be current. Articles and etc. must be published within 1 year of the current day.** (If you feel your topic is one where sources previous to this should be considered, check with me—I'm not opposed to it.)
3. Complete a note-taking sheet in your Google Drive (we are going to set this up in class on Monday) for each source. **RESEARCH NOTES ARE DUE TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM Wednesday, April 10, by the end of the class period.**
4. Decide on the thesis -- the central argument -- for your paper and prepare a good, complete rough draft. This rough draft should be in MLA format. **ROUGH DRAFTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 23 to Turn It In. You need to bring either a printed hard copy OR be willing to share it on Google Drive with a classmate during peer review.**
5. Your final draft of your essay is due to Turn It in **by midnight on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24. You will need to turn in this draft to both Google Classroom AND Turn It In.**
6. Last but not least -- **your essay should include a works cited page** with all the sources used in your essay. This works cited page should be included with your rough draft and your final draft.

LENGTH OF ESSAY: 1200-1500 Words (not including the Works Cited page)

Thursday, 3/21	Assignment Overview. Begin brainstorming for topics.
Monday, 3/25	Topic Interest Paragraph Due to Google Classroom by 7:45 a.m. / Set up research folders
Wednesday, 4/10	Research folder submitted to Google Classroom by the end of class
Tuesday, 4/23	Rough Draft due (with Works Cited page) due to Turn It In by 7:45 a.m.
Wednesday, 4/24	Final Draft due (with Works Cited page) due to Turn It In by MIDNIGHT.

(Gentle Reminder: The Writing Center is open MW 2:45-3:30 and TThF 7:10-7:40. The seniors who work there have all done this assignment in the past and know the expectations. Schedule an appointment at [bhswritingcenter.weebly.com](http://bhswritingcenter.weebly.com).)

**Current Topics to Consider**

College Education (worth, cost, etc.)	Organic vs. Non-Organic Foods (USDA controversies)
Animal Rights	Sports Topics (drug use, controversial rules, etc.)
War on Terror	Standardized Testing (State Tests, SAT/ACT, etc.)
Drug/Opioid Addiction	Religion/Bible in Schools
Fine Arts in Education	Legislation regarding reproductive rights
Environmental Issues	Racial Profiling
Common Core in Education	Racism
Education Reform / No Child Left Behind	Hollywood Role Models
Video Games	Entertainment/Art
Kids and Television	Voting Fraud
Poverty	Veterans Benefits
Anorexia, Bulimia, Eating Disorders	Immigration
Other Health Issues	Rights of the Disabled
Prison Conditions	Corporate Sponsorship
Capital Punishment	Healthcare
Electoral College	Child/Teen Issues (stress, bullying, apathy, etc.)
Freedom of Speech	Hunger
Obesity/Health Issues in America	Homelessness
Lottery and Education / HOPE Scholarships	Bailouts of Large Companies
Social Media (Effects)	Cyberbullying
Social Security	Affordable Healthcare Act (Obamacare)
Alternative Fuels	Public vs. Private Schools (Charter Schools)
Police Brutality	The #MeToo Movement
LGBTQ+ Rights	Politics and Entertainment

**\*If there is a topic that interests you that cannot be found on this list, speak with me about your ideas and we will consider breaking away from those listed above.\***