

## **Position Paper Topic Selection**

Welcome to the position paper writing process! The position paper process includes pre-research, research, writing and critical thinking skills. The process begins with essential steps to help you select a topic wisely. You will need to follow the steps and the due dates that are outlined for you. The process will be much easier if you complete each step thoroughly and on time. Keep all your work and the handouts throughout the entire process. It is essential that you acquire a binder to hold all of your position paper materials. You are to bring your materials to Social Studies daily. You will receive a grade for the writing process and the paper. Below, is a list of possible topics you can focus on for the position paper. You are NOT limited to this list; however, prior approval of topics is needed from the teacher.

### **Topic Selection**

- ❖ Selecting a topic that interests you and want to know more about is essential! You will be spending six weeks on the process so being sure you enjoy the topic is important.
- ❖ When selecting a topic ask yourself:
  - Am I really interested in this topic?
  - Did I discuss this topic with a parent/guardian?
  - Is this topic too easy or too hard?
  - Will I be able to find enough valid and reliable information on this topic?
  - Do I understand the topic?
  - Is this a reasonable topic for the amount of time allotted for the process?
  - Is my topic controversial?
  - Can I find information on differing viewpoints on my topic?

### **Suggested Topics**

1. Should the U.S. forgive debts of third world countries?
2. Should the U.S. adopt a flat tax on income?
3. Should the U.S. government fund research for solar power?
4. Should the U.S. intervene in nations where genocide occurs?
5. Should smoking in all public places be banned?
6. Should the U.S. devote more of its resources to ending hunger at home?
7. Should the U.S. government support zero population growth?
8. Should school uniforms be required in public schools?
9. Should marihuana be legalized?
10. Should there be mandatory blood testing for doctors, teachers, health care workers, etc?
11. Should there be drug testing in sports?
12. Should doctor assisted suicide be legalized?
13. Should children under the age of 18 have unlimited access to the internet?
14. Should there be censorship of books in public schools?
15. Should school authorities be allowed to search student lockers?
16. Should there be stricter gun control laws in the U.S.?
17. Should children be tried as adults in the court system?
18. Should there continue to be a government policy of affirmative action regarding college admissions?
19. Should parents be held responsible for crimes committed by their minor children?
20. Should police have greater freedom for search and seizure?
21. Are Connecticut Native American land claims valid?
22. Do news journalists and photographers have a right to intrude on people's privacy?
23. Should producers of guns be held responsible for gun-related deaths?
24. Should students/teachers be allowed to wear religious symbols in public schools?
25. Should prayer be allowed in public schools?
26. Should the hate groups be outlawed?

27. Should the U.S. use military force to prevent human rights abuses in other countries?
28. Should Miranda right be limited?
29. Should the U.S. intervene in the nuclear development of other nations?
30. Should the U.S. develop a national health plan?
31. Should the U.S. limit/ stop immigration to this country?
32. Should the U.S. limit civil rights in order to prevent terrorism?
33. Was the Emancipation Proclamation just a “political action”?
34. Should there be women in U.S. combat units?
35. Was the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans necessary?
36. Was the use of the atomic bomb necessary?
37. Are U.S. sanctions against Cuba still necessary?
38. Should the U.S. continue to support South Korea?
39. Is the Patriot Act constitutional?
40. Should the U.S. government support stem cell research?
41. Should reparations be made to families of former slaves?
42. Should there be stricter penalties for hate crimes?
43. Does China’s One-Child Policy violate human rights?
44. Does the African child bride custom violate human rights?
45. Is the execution of juveniles in the U.S. a violation of International Human Rights Law?
46. Does free trade promote human rights in China?

#### Suggested Sources

This list of suggested sources is just to get you started. You are not limited to using these sources.

- Books
- ABC-CLIO Issues
- Opposing Viewpoints Series and Database
- At Issue Series
- Issues and Controversies Database
- Upfront Magazine
- ProCon.org

