



Junior Research Paper: A Passionate Controversy

You will choose to research one side of a controversial topic that you feel passionate about.

Only one person may research a particular side of a topic.

Then, you will research this topic to develop a thesis that will be supported in your 10 page paper.

You will use a variety of sources in the research process and document them in your works cited as well as make copies to turn in with your final paper.

You will also submit the paper to turnitin.com during various parts of the research process.

The paper will cover the history of the issue, its role in society today and one side of the issue that you are supporting (in the third person).

Where to look for topic ideas:

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/a/argumenttopics.htm>

<http://www.questia.com/library/sociology-and-anthropology/social-issues/controversial-topics.jsp>

<http://www.sac.edu/students/library/nealley/websites/controversial.htm>

<http://www.goodessaytopics.com/controversial-essay-topics.html>

<http://www.procon.org/>

Where you will research:

- Your local library
- The Saint Francis library
- A personal interview
- Reliable internet sources & sites (refer to your research book on how to evaluate sources)

Your paper must answer all of these questions:

HISTORY

What is the issue exactly?

How did it manifest itself in our society to become such a hot topic today?

Who are some of the people who spearheaded this movement and who continues to push the issue today?

How has the issue changed from its beginnings until now?

Where does it seem to be headed in 2011 and beyond?

MEDIA

Find **three** magazine articles and **three** newspaper articles from three different decades related to your issue. For these 6 articles, answer the following questions in your paper: How is the author qualified to write about your issue? How does this article support/refute your side of the issue?

LITERATURE

Find **two** different novels related to your issue. (You do not need to have read both of them) For each, answer the following questions in your paper: How do these two books address your issue? Why were the authors inspired to write about the issue (requires research on the background of the author)? How can each be used to influence your topic?

Find **two** poems or short stories (or one of each) that relate to your issue. For each, answer the following questions in your paper: How do these relate to your issue? How was the author influenced to write this work (requires research on the background of the author)? How can each be used to influence your topic?

MISCELLANEOUS

Interview **one** expert on this topic.

Find someone who is either for or against your issue and develop at least 10 solid questions to address in person, via email or via phone to your interviewee. You must write a transcript of the interview and turn it in as part of the research process and also cite parts of the interview in your paper.

ARGUMENT

Clearly state the side of the issue people should support. Use information from the sections above (media, literature) to supplement your argument.

Then, research at least 5 opposing arguments to your stance and address them with your refutations (supported by research you've done).

WORKS CITED

You must cite the following in your paper and in your works cited. You may add any other materials that you use to this list.

- 1 Interview
- 3 newspaper articles
- 3 magazine articles
- 2 novels
- 2 short stories OR poems
- 5 sources (type may vary) that refute your topic
(some of them may be found in your interview or articles from above)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #1

DUE: Tuesday, January 18

Paper copy in class

Works Cited List

As you come across resources that may have relevant material for your paper, please place them on a works cited page. They should be arranged alphabetically and listed in MLA citation form. You can use easybib.com or some other online site to help you format correctly.

By the due date, you should have all 6 articles listed and at least 2 of the 4 literary resources as well as at least 2 of the sources that refute your side. -> in total: **10 sources minimum** will be on the works cited page.

Extra Credit Opportunity

Due: Tuesday, January 18

This is the only day it will be accepted

When you visit your local library, don't be afraid to ask the reference librarians for help. This is their job – they are good at it and excited to help you. Give them your controversial topic, tell them which side you are arguing for (if you know) and then ask them to help you locate appropriate materials – the articles and literature relevant to it.

For extra credit – Answer the following five questions, type them up and turn the paper in:

- 1) The library's name
- 2) The librarian's first and last name and title
- 3) The librarian's contact information (email address, direct phone line, etc)
 - a. For even more extra credit, if the librarian has a **personalized business card**, please collect it and turn it in – OR ask the librarian to **send me an email** stating he/she helped you: email to sfairhead@sfhsnet.org
- 4) How you and the librarian looked up the information (via search engine, reference book, etc)
- 5) What specific sources you located there.