

BIG 6: Controversial Issue Research Project

Team 5-1



Due Date: Tuesday, May 22

You will be choosing a topic related to the U.S. Constitution to research using an authentic source (an interview) and the library or internet. The topic could be an actual part of the Constitution, an Amendment, or an issue that has come up in Constitutional debate. Included is a list of 42 topics to choose from (and once a student chooses a topic no one else can take it.) If you want to do a different topic you **MUST** see your teacher to have it approved.

Along with your research, you will complete two main components:

1) Create a visual

AND

2) Write a research paper

OR

Produce and film a mini-documentary

OR

Write and create an Xtranormal online cartoon

OR

Design and build a website

You will be given a pocket folder and a manilla folder with six attached envelopes to help you organize your research. Five envelopes will be for your essential questions and the sixth envelope will be for your sources. The only thing you will need to provide for the research portion are the index cards. We will be walking you through this portion of the project step-by-step. You will have six weeks to complete this project.



Research Process:

- 1) One portion of your research must be from an authentic source and you will conduct an interview to gather this information. Your choice of who to interview will be largely dependent on which topic you choose. If you choose *Distracted Driving* for example, you might want to interview a police officer. If you choose *Cloning*, you might want to interview a scientist. Interviews can be in person or over the phone and must be supervised by a parent or guardian. If you would like to set up a phone interview during school hours, you would need your parent's permission, but your teacher can help supervise that.
- 2) The second portion of your research can come from either the internet or a library. Preferably you will do a combination of the two.
- 3) Use at least five sources for your information. (The interview is one of those sources.) Using the correct format included in this packet, write down each source on a separate index card and store them in the sixth envelope. Number each card at the top and circle that number. (This is the source # that you will refer to on all the other note cards.)
- 4) Take notes on note cards, one fact per card. You must have a minimum of 50 note cards. On the front write the fact. On the back of each card write the source # from which you got your information. Put each card in the correct *essential question* envelope.
- 5) Compile a bibliography. You may do it old school style (type it out yourself) or use Noodle Tools (www.noodlertools.com). It doesn't matter which project option you choose, EVERY student needs a bibliography.

Option #1: Research Paper

- 1) Write a paper that is at least four pages typed. At least four pages does NOT mean three pages and a few lines on the 4th page. It means *full* pages.
- 2) Design a cool cover title page (not included in the required four pages) that includes your name and your topic title. Also include a picture or pictures – they could be computer graphics, pictures from the internet, pictures from magazines, drawn by hand, etc.
- 3) Break up the paper into five sections – one section for each essential question. If it's easier, you can even break it up into six sections and leave one section just for the interview.
- 4) Include your Bibliography after the paper.

PAPER

- Cool cover page with title, author, date and a picture
- At least four pages, typed.
- Times New Roman font.
- 12-point font.
- Double spaced.
- One inch margins.
- Essential questions clearly labeled, typed in *italics and bolded*.
- Bibliography on a separate page(s) after paper.

Option #2: Mini-Documentary

Choosing this option means that you will be producing and filming a mini-documentary about your topic. A documentary is about a true event/topic. You can only choose this option if you have your own camera since we cannot guarantee the availability of the cameras in school. Since supervision would be an issue in school, you will also need to film the documentary outside of school hours. (While we can try to make some exceptions in rare cases, we make no promises, so you must at least *plan* to do your filming outside school hours and we will do our best to accommodate special requests.)

- 1) The mini-documentary must be between 3-6 minutes.
- 2) A ½ - 1 page typed “proposal” must be submitted to your teacher within the first two weeks of the project (due by April 23) if you choose to do a documentary. Documentaries are not scripted the same way movies are, but directors start filming with a basic story in mind (although that story may change and that is ok.) Follow the Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? format in your proposal.
- 3) While using at least some basic editing software for titles, transitions (like cuts and fades), and music is preferred, it is not mandatory. However, most PCs and Macs come with free editing software anyway. If you do use music make sure it is low enough so it does not take away from any speaking on the documentary. Do not overuse fancy transitions either – real documentaries use the basic “cut” and an occasional fade to black.
- 4) You may include anyone you want in your documentary. Some directors include themselves and others do not. That is up to you. You may work on this with other students, but they are still responsible for their own project, too. One suggestion is if two students work together they can help each other out with both documentaries.

Option #3: Xtranormal Online Cartoon

Xtranormal (www.xtranormal.com) is an online cartoon maker similar to Voki; however, it is a lot more powerful with many more options. While Voki limits you to 600 characters (of type), Xtranormal allows up to 20,000 characters. In addition, Voki only allows for one cartoon avatar at a time and Xtranormal will let you have two cartoon characters speak to one another. Choosing the Xtranormal option means that you will create an educational cartoon about your issue/topic. While your topic must be fully discussed in the cartoon, *how* it's done is entirely up to you. You will be graded on both your creativity and ability to discuss the topic. Just making a cool cartoon is not enough – the viewer must learn something about your issue after watching the cartoon.

- 1) You must choose two cartoon characters. You will have the option of just choosing just one, but you **need** to choose two. We would recommend choosing a male and a female though. If you choose the same gender for both characters, the voices will sound similar. The ones that have a male and a female character speaking to one another are easier for the listener to follow along.
- 2) Your cartoon must be between 3-6 minutes.
- 3) You can save your cartoon any way you want, but don't forget to save and save often. It's never fun to work hard and then lose everything you just did.
- 4) Do not include your name in any part of the cartoon. You should save it with your first name (or initials) as part of the file name, but do not include your name or initials in any part of the actual cartoon. (For example, don't have the characters speak your name.)

Once we determine how many students will be using the Xtranormal option, we will create student accounts for each student. These accounts will be paid for (so you don't have to pay anything to create a cartoon) and appropriate for fifth grade.

Option #4: Design a website

Choosing this option means that you will be designing your own website about your controversial issue. This must be a live, working website which anyone can find on the internet. You will be graded on both your creativity and ability to discuss the topic. Just making a cool website is not enough – students must learn something about your issue after looking at your website. Something to consider – you cannot create an account without assistance from a parent. It's simple to create, but you must provide a valid e-mail address and they will e-mail you a confirmation. You may choose from two different providers – both are free. You can choose www.webs.com or www.weebly.com. (There are pay options for both, but the free version works fine. You just have to deal with some ads.) If you are determined to use a different web provider see your teacher first for approval. While your teacher can help you to some extent, much of the designing will be done on your own so only choose the web design option if you would feel comfortable with this. If you would need someone to guide you each step of the way this may not be the best option for you.

- 1) Your website must include at least ten separate pages.
- 2) Each essential question must have its own page. (These are counted as part of the ten.) Each essential question must be explained well.
- 3) You must include at least five pictures related to your topic. Pictures can be embedded in a page or can be included as part of a photo gallery. Be careful how large your photos are because the free version does have a size limit.
- 4) You must include at least five links to articles about your topic.
- 5) You must include at least one link to a video (or embed the video if you have the space) related to your topic.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(If you decide not to use Noodles Tools)

Begin your Bibliography on a separate page called Bibliography (with no quotation marks, underlining, etc.), which should be centered at the top of the page.

Double space all entries, with no skipped spaces between entries.

Alphabetize the list of works cited by the first word in each entry (usually the author's last name).

Put list in alphabetical order by author's last name.

****NOTE:** some sites, such as World Book Online have the correct way to cite already written for you, just cut and paste it into your Works Cited document. Put them all in order after you collect all your information

BOOK

Author. (Last Name, First Name)

Title of Book. (underlined)

City of Publication:

Publisher,

Date of Publication/copyright date.

Example:

Vadel, Bernard. Michelangelo. New York: Konecky & Konecky, 1986.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY RESEARCHER

Name of person interviewed (Last name, First name)

Type of interview.

Date of interview.

Example:

Jeter, Derek. Telephone interview. April 25, 2011.

ENTIRE WEB SITE

Author. (if known)

Title of Complete Site.

Editor's Names (if any)

Date of Publication or last update

Name of sponsoring organization

Date of visit (not followed by punctuation)

<full http address> . (aka URL)

Example:

United States Government. Environmental Protection Agency.

Values and Functions of Wetlands. 25 May 1999 Mar. 2001

<<http://www.epa.gov/wetlands/facts/facts2.html>>.

WEB Article (not from database)

Author (if known)

"Title of Article". (quotation marks)

Title of Complete Site.

Date of publication or last update

sponsoring organization (if not same as author)

Date of visit (not followed by punctuation)

<full http address> . (aka URL)

Example:

Arnett, Bill. "Callisto". The Nine Planets. Apr. 1, 2006

<<http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/callisto.html>>.

VIDEO/DVD

Title of Movie (underlined)

Director (Dir. First Name, Last Name)

Performers (Perf. Actor first name, actor last name)

Studio

Date

Example:

Chocolat. Dir. Stephen Frears. Perf. Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench,
Alfred Molina, Johnny
Depp. Miramax, 2001.

MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER/ ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE FROM ONLINE DATABASE

(ICONN, World Book Online, Culturegrams, Ebsco)

Author. (Last name , First name)

“Title of Article.”

Magazine Title (underlined) date: page numbers of the article.

Publication Date

Name of Database (underlined or *italicized*)

Publisher of Database/Service.

Library that holds subscription (name, city, state) .

Date of visit (not followed by punctuation)

full http address (aka URL).

Example:

Galaese, Susan. “The Multi-Vitamin Garden.” Mother Earth News
June 2000: p.56. Infotrac. Galegroup.. Avon Free Public Library,
Avon, CT. Apr. 2, 2001 <
http://web4.infotrac.galegroup.com/...O_A62298 >.

IMAGE FROM ONLINE SOURCE

Artist if available.

"Description or title of image."

Date of image.

Online image.

Title of larger site.

Date of download.

<electronic address>.

Example:

Smith, Greg. "Rhesus Monkeys in the Zoo." No date. Online image.

Monkey Picture Gallery. 3 May 2003.

<<http://monkeys.online.org/rhesus.jpg>>.

* if you find an image on Google images, remember to click it and find out the source - do not just cut and paste the image you MUST cite where you got it, even for posters !

TOPICS

First Amendment

Schools

School Dress Code

Pledge of Allegiance

School Newspapers/Yearbooks

Book censorship

Internet

Cyberbullying

Spam

Cybercrime

Entertainment

TV and movie ratings

Advertising

Tobacco advertising

Gambling advertising

Alcohol advertising

Telemarketing

Freedom of Expression

Flag burning

Freedom of the Press

Court Gag Orders

Libel and defamation

Cameras in the courtroom

Freedom of Religion

School Prayer

Religious holidays in schools

Religious school clubs

Bible in school

Other Amendments

2nd Amendment (Right to Keep Weapons)
4th Amendment (Freedom From Unreasonable Search and Seizure)
5th Amendment (Rights of Persons Accused of a Crime)
6th Amendment (Right to a Jury Trial in Criminal Cases)
12th Amendment (Election of President and Vice President)
13th Amendment (Slavery Outlawed)
14th Amendment (Rights of Citizens)
15th Amendment (Voting Rights)
19th Amendment (Women's Right to Vote)
25th Amendment (Presidential Succession)

Other Topics

Cloning
Drunk Driving
Affirmative Action
Racial profiling
Cell phones bans (in public places)
Smoking bans
Zero Tolerance in schools
Identity Theft
Plagiarism
Distracted Driving
Offshore Drilling
TSA Screening (at airports)

Feel free to come up with your own topic if you don't want to do any of these. (There are 42 topics to choose from though!) If you choose a topic that is not on this list, it **MUST be approved by your teacher first.**

BIG SIX PROJECT

PROJECT

Write a research paper

OR

Produce and film a mini-documentary

OR

Write and create an Xtranormal online cartoon

OR

Design and build a website

VISUAL

- Each student will share their visual with the class, explain what their topic was about, and answer questions from the class.
- The visual must explain the controversial topic.
- Examples: tri-fold poster display, papier mache with background poster, diorama with background poster, model etc.

FOLDER (This will be provided for you.)

- Assignment Organizer
- At least five sources
- At least 50 note cards with source # on each

DUE DATE: Tuesday, May 22