

## Final Project: Current Issues

**Points:** 100

**Rough Draft Due:** Uploaded Monday May 25th, hard copy Tuesday, May 26th

**Final Draft of Paper Due:** Upload Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>; hard copy Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

### Content Standard:

11.11—Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

**Objective:** Students will analyze and gain a deeper understanding of a current issue in American society and in the global society.

**Task:** Students will select a current issue to research, then create a written analysis of that issue. Students will analyze not only the pros/cons of the issue, but all aspects of the issue. There will be a presentation of the issue with the other students who have selected your topic. This is not a debate, per se, but a panel discussion. *Rubric for the presentation will be provided.* Presentations will begin June 1st.

(Only 3 people per topic)

### Paper:

1. 4 full pages; Times New Roman, 12 point font, Double Spaced
2. Uploaded night before due date
3. Follow MLA formatting (Name in the top right); separate works cited page. (Chicago Manual Style footnotes or endnotes are fine)
4. Include references in your paper for data and information.
5. Include a works cited page. At least 5 credible sources. Online sources are fine.

**Topics:** Remember to provide the pros and cons for each issue. (*No more than three people per topic*)

### A. Gun Control

- a. Should there be more gun limitations? What kind of limitations?
- b. What laws are already on the books?
- c. Isn't gun ownership a Constitutional right? Can it be taken away? When?
- d. How often are guns used in self-defense every year?
- e. How have other countries dealt with guns? To what degree of success?

**B. Guantanamo Bay**

- a. What's the purpose of the prison at Guantanamo Bay?
- b. Should it be closed?
- c. Is the prison in keeping with the democratic ideals of the U.S.?
- d. Should the prisoners there be moved to the U.S?

**C. The PATRIOT Act**

- a. What's the purpose of this act?
- b. Is the U.S. safer as a result of the act? What terror plots have been prevented because of the act?
- c. Has it violated the rights of Americans?
- d. Should it be repealed?

**D. ANWR Drilling**

- a. What's ANWR?
- b. Should it be opened to drilling?
- c. Would it make the U.S. less dependent on foreign oil?
- d. What environmental concerns are there? Is there a safe way of drilling there?
- e. How have other countries dealt with oil drilling vs. environmental issues?

**E. Death Penalty**

- a. Should it be abolished? Why?
- b. Do other countries have the death penalty? Why/why not?
- c. What has the Supreme Court said about it?
- d. Are some methods of execution more humane than others?
- e. Shouldn't the most serious offenders be executed?

**F. “Global Warming”**

- a. Is “Global Warming” man made? What alternative reasons are there?
- b. What, if anything, should the U.S. do about it? What would the costs and benefits be?
- c. How are other countries dealing with this issue? To what degree of success?

**G. Same-Sex Marriage**

- a. Is marriage a civil right?
- b. What are the reasons given to allow/prevent same-sex marriage?
- c. What is the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?
- d. What is the current status of Proposition 8?
- e. How are other countries dealing with this issue? Is same-sex marriage legal everywhere? Where is it not legal? Why?

**H. Taxes**

- a. Is the U.S. tax code fair?
- b. Should taxes be raised on the “wealthy”? Who is considered wealthy?
- c. What’s the “Buffet rule” and is it a good idea?
- d. Who pays the majority of federal income taxes? e. How much do other countries tax its citizens? Which tax more? Less? Why?

**I. Universal Healthcare**

- a. What are the costs/benefits of a universal healthcare system?
- b. Should the U.S. adopt such a system?
- c. Would this lead to rationing?
- d. How has this system worked in countries that have it? What have been their benefits, and what issues have come up?

**J. Illegal Immigration**

- a. What should be done to prevent illegal immigration?
- b. What about those already here?
- c. Should there be an amnesty?
- d. Should there be more deportations?
- e. How do other countries deal with this issue?

**K. War in Iraq?**

- a. Should the U.S. have attacked Iraq? Why?
- b. Why did the U.S. attack Iraq?
- c. What countries supported the U.S. led invasion? Which didn't? Why?
- d. What happens now?

\*For the purposes of this final, Wikipedia, Yahoo answers, studymode.com, or any such search site are not considered academic sources. Always try .gov and .edu sites first. If you are unsure if a site is reputable or not, email me. We will review what a reputable site is in the coming days.

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