

Final Project: Current Issues in American Society

Points: 100

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.

Task: Working in pairs, students will select a current issue to research, then create a written analysis of that issue. One student will be pro, the other con. They will analyze not only the pros/cons of the issue, but all aspects of the issue. Then, there will be a powerpoint presentation of that issue to the entire class. *(No more than two people working together, and no more than one pair working on any issue.)*

What is due?

- a. Written analysis of your side of the issue. (2 pages, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman)
- b. PowerPoint presentation (follow class guidelines)

Remember to provide the pros and cons for each issue

- 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?
- 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 - d. Should it be repealed?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. Death Penalty

- a. Should it be abolished?
 - b. What has the Supreme Court said about it?
 - c. Are some methods of execution more humane than others?
 - d. 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?
- 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 does the current Supreme Court ruling on Prop. 8 and DOMA mean for the future of gay marriage?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- K. War in Iraq
- a. Should the U.S. have attacked Iraq?
 - b. Why did the U.S. attack Iraq?
 - c. What reasons were given in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 for attacking Iraq?

Useful sites:

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

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

<http://www.sac.edu/StudentServices/Library/Pages/Controversialissues.aspx>