

Whatcha Think? English I Research Project

Contemporary life is marked by controversy. Opposing viewpoints on a myriad of issues are present in every day conversation, are vehemently pushed by the media, and are constantly affecting our opinions, decisions, relationships – our very lives, in fact.

For this assignment, you will be provided a series of articles covering two opposing viewpoints on various modern controversies. You will be asked to read the two opposing articles and measure each side against your own beliefs. You will perform your own research on the subject and use your findings as well as the commentary and information provided to you in the original articles to create a Canva presentation exposing your final verdict on the issue.

Select a Topic!

Below you will find a list of the possible topics you can have the option of selecting.

Following each topic heading is a brief abstract of the two opposing articles. Use these to give you an idea of exactly what aspect of the issue is being addressed to ensure you make a choice that fits your needs and beliefs.

Topic	Viewpoint #1	Viewpoint #2
Celebrity Culture's Effect on society	Argues that many American teenagers are obsessed with celebrities and becoming famous, which has negative emotional and social consequences.	Asserts that celebrities' lives provide enriching human narratives through which people learn about love, family, and the pitfalls of wealth.
Vaccinations: Helpful or Harmful?	Contends that vaccines work very well to prevent disease and are necessary, and even though they are not entirely harmless, the small risks are outweighed by the benefits of disease prevention.	States that vaccines may provoke latent illnesses and do not result in real immunity.
Should we regulate online music downloads?	Declares that allowing unregulated exchange of free music over the Internet may destroy record companies and harm artists and consumers.	Contends that industries dealing in intellectual property will eventually profit from the expanded market of allowing the sharing free music via websites like Napster.
Book Banning: Restrictive or Protective?	Asserts that teachers of literature must be bold thinkers who are not afraid to offend and should thus disallow the regulation of what their students read.	Maintains that parents alone should have the right to choose what their children read.
Do video games increase violent aggression?	Maintains that scientific evidence shows video games are harmful to children.	Contends that it is unknown and inconclusive whether video games truly promote violent behavior.
Zero Tolerance on Weapons in Schools: Necessary or Overkill?	Argues that high school shootings, while rare, are a reminder of the need for zero tolerance of weapons in American schools.	Holds that while school shootings are tragic, zero-tolerance policies are not the solution.

- The opposing articles themselves have been posted in a special folder on your teacher's website.

The Prompt & Project

In a well-researched, organized, and developed project, you will need to do the following things:

- Clearly state your opinion on the given issue.
- **Defend, Contest, and/or Qualify** the ideas presented in the two articles.
- Use a variety of evidence (including your thoughts on the original articles and information from at least 1 additional articles) to support your own position on the issue.
 - To **defend** a position, you must explain the merits of the position--what makes it a workable, viable position.
 - When asked to **contest** a position, you must explain the problems with the position—why it is not a workable, viable position.
 - When asked to **qualify** a position, you recognize the merits of a position but then proceeds to disagree with the position, citing specific evidence.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Lacking	Nothing
Paper Handouts: Their Own Grades					
Weekly Peer Edit: student has 2 peer edits done by their peers that address a variety of issues. (2 Daily Grades)	100	90	80	60	0
Annotated Bibliography Page: student has an annotated bibliography page completed in the requirements given. (Minor Grade)	100	90	80	60	0

Canva Pages: (Major Grade)					
	Excellent	Good	Average	Lacking	Nothing
Introduction Page: Must include different viewpoints and a clearly stated thesis.	20	18	13	7	0
Summary of Both Views: Must include blended quotes and citations in paragraphs. (2-3)	30	25	18	10	0
Your Viewpoint: Must defend, contest or qualify a position, using blended quotes and citations in paragraphs. (2-3)	30	25	18	10	0
Works Cited: An MLA formatted works cited page.	20	18	13	7	0

MLA WORKS CITED TEMPLATE

TYPE OF SOURCE	WORKS CITED EXAMPLES	IN TEXT CITATION
Book with one author	Author's last name, first name. <i>Title</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication. Example: Philbrick, Nathaniel. <i>Revenge of the Whale: The True Story</i> . New York: Putnam, 2002. Print.	(Philbrick 22)
Book with more than one author	Example: Bode, Janet, and Stan Mack. <i>Hard Time</i> . New York: Delacorte, 1996. Print.	(Bode and Mack 33)
Book with one editor	Editor's last name, first name, ed. <i>Title</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Medium of Publication. Example: Newton, David E., ed. <i>Encyclopedia of Science</i> . Detroit: UXL, 1998. Print.	(Newton 64)
Book with two editors	Example: Newton, David E., and Rob Nagel, eds. <i>Encyclopedia of Science</i> . Detroit: UXL, 1998. Print.	(Newton and Nagel 82)
Book with three or more editors	Example: Newton, David E., et al, eds. <i>Encyclopedia of Science</i> . Detroit: UXL, 1998. Print.	(Newton 200)
Book with an article or chapter, or a work in an anthology	Author of poem, story, or article last name, first name. "Article Title." <i>Title of Book or Anthology</i> . Editor of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Page Numbers. Medium of Publication. Example: Knights, L.C. "Macbeth: a Lust for Power." <i>William Shakespeare's Macbeth</i> . Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Chelsea, 1987. 39-57. Print.	(Knights 39-42)
Book with reprinted criticism or scholarly article (as in <i>Short Stories for Students, Novels for Students, Drama for Students, and Poetry for Students</i>)	Author of article last name, first name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Original Publication</i> Date of original Publication: Page number(s) in Original Publication. Rpt. in <i>Title of Book</i> . Editor of Book. Volume Number. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Page Number in reprint. Medium of Publication. Example: Yuen, Maria. "Two Crises of Decision in <i>Jane Eyre</i> ." <i>English Studies</i> June (1976): 215-216. Rpt. in <i>Novels for Students</i> . Ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 184-186. Print.	(Yuen 215)
<i>World Book</i> and <i>Americana</i> encyclopedia	Author of Article last name, first name. "Title of Article." <i>Title of Encyclopedia</i> . Edition of Encyclopedia. Date. Medium of Publication. Example: Haskett, James B. "Lethbridge." <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i> . 2006 ed. Print. Unsigned Article Example: "Renaissance." <i>Encyclopedia Americana</i> . 2004 ed. Print.	(Haskett 462) (Renaissance 301)
Personal Interview	Name of Person Interviewed. Kind of Interview. Date. Example: Hill, R. Personal Interview. 23 Oct. 2009.	(Hill)
Website (Use n.p. for no publisher and n.d. for no date. If other information is not given, cite what is available.)	Author's last name, first name. "Title of Work." <i>Title of Overall Website</i> . Version or Edition. Publisher or Site Sponsor or n.p. for not available, Date of Publication or n.d. for no date given. Medium of publication. Date of access. Example:	

	Lynch, Tim. "DSN Trials." <i>Psi Phi: Bradley's Science Fiction</i> . n.p., 1996. Web. 22 Aug. 2009.	(Lynch)
Website with URL required	Example: Lynch, Tim. "DSN Trials." <i>Psi Phi: Bradley's Science Fiction</i> . n.p., 1996. Web. 22 Aug. 2009. <http://www.bradley.edu/campusorg/psiphi/DS9/ep/>.	(Lynch)
Online Encyclopedia	Example: Deliyannis, Deborah Mauskopf. "Middle Ages." <i>World Book Advanced</i> . World Book, 2009. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.	(Deliyannis)
Database(example from Literature Resource Center in Gale)	Example: Shayon, Robert Lewis. "The Interplanetary Spock." <i>Saturday Review</i> 17 June 1967: 46. Rpt. in <i>Contemporary Literary Criticism</i> . Ed. Sharon R. Gunton. Vol. 17. Detroit: Gale, 1981: 403. <i>Literature Resource Center</i> . Gale. Web. 16 Oct. 2001.	(Shayon 403)
Databse (example from Literary Reference Center in EBSCO)	Example: Kimbrel, William. "Carlos Baker and the General." <i>Hemingway Review</i> 16.1 (1988): 51-53. <i>Literary Reference Center</i> . EBSCO. Web. 20 Aug. 2008.	(Kimbrel 53)
Online Book (example from Gale Virtual Reference Library)	Example: Smith, John. "The Dust Bowl." <i>Historic Events for Students: The Great Depression</i> . Eds. Richard C. Hanes and Sharon M. Hanes. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 2002. 21-33. <i>Gale Virtual Reference Library</i> . Web. 30 Oct. 2008.	(Hanes and Hanes 33)
Image from the web	Artist or photographer last name, first name. <i>Title or description of Work</i> . Date created. <i>Title of database or website</i> . Medium of Publication. Date of Access. Example: Smith, James. <i>Tigers in the Rain</i> . n.d. <i>Tiger Photo Gallery</i> . Web. 3 Sept. 2008.	(Smith)
Common Abbreviations	No place of publication or No publisher—n.p. No date of publication—n.d. No pagination (page numbers)—n. pag. Number—no. Publisher, Publication, Published by—pub. Page—p. Pages—pp. Reprint, Reprinted, Reprinted by—rpt. Editor, Edition, or Edited by—ed. University— U University Press—UP Volume—vol. January—Jan. February—Feb. March—Mar. April—Apr. August—Aug. September—Sept. October—Oct. November—Nov. December—Dec. You may shorten the name of a publisher for example: Cambridge University Press—Cambridge UP Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.--Macmillan Charles Scribner's Sons—Scribners	

The Annotated Bibliography

The Breakdown

A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "references" or "works cited" depending on the style format you are using. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation.

Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. In your annotated bibliography, you will:

- provide a citation for your source
- describe the content of the source
- describe the usefulness of the source
- evaluate the credibility of the source
- describe your reaction

Why should I write an annotated bibliography?

- **To learn about your topic:** Writing an annotated bibliography is excellent preparation for a research project. Just collecting sources for a bibliography is useful, but when you have to write annotations for each source, you're forced to read each source more carefully. You begin to read more critically instead of just collecting information. At the professional level, annotated bibliographies allow you to see what has been done in the literature and where your own research or scholarship can fit.
- **To help you formulate a thesis:** Every good research paper is an argument. The purpose of research is to state and support a thesis. So a very important part of research is developing a thesis that is debatable, interesting, and current. Writing an annotated bibliography can help you gain a good perspective on what is being said about your topic. By reading and responding to a variety of sources on a topic, you'll start to see what the issues are, what people are arguing about, and you'll then be able to develop your own point of view.

Here's How It's Done:

The Citation: The citation includes the bibliographic information of the source. You will use MLA format for your citations. You will then provide an **annotation** for this source.

You will do 3 things with your annotation:

- **Summarize:** This is where you summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
- **Assess:** After summarizing a source, it is important to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is it this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?
- **Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?
- **Format:** For an annotated bibliography, use standard MLA format for the citations, then add a brief annotation for each entry, including:
 - 2 to 4 sentences to summarize the main idea(s) of the item
 - 1 or 2 sentences to relate the item to your research topic
 - 1 or 2 sentences to identify how helpful this resource is to your research topic, how credible the source is, and whether or not you feel it is something you could use in your final paper.
 - 12 pt. Times New Roman Font
 - Space as shown in examples below

Here are 2 Examples:

White, Jack E. "Martin Luther King, Jr." *Time Magazine* 13 Apr. 1998: 82. Rpt. in *Biography*

Resource Center. Chicago: Gale, 1992. Web. 3 Feb. 2015.

This article is a testament of the achievements and affects that Martin Luther King Jr. accomplished throughout his life. It tells stories about things he did while he was alive and immediately relates them to today's world by clearly stating how they have affected specific situations and outcomes even after his death. The writer of the article has covered Civil Rights issues for 30 years and thus brought to his article not only knowledge but an emotional connection. The article looks at not only King's affect on society but also at society's responses and reactions to his work both historically and today. This article is perfect in relation to proving Martin Luther King Jr. to be a modern day hero. It provides not only solid facts and data to prove his heroism but also offers insights into the man behind the accomplishments through specific examples of the stigma King's work has held in society today. I found a lot of the information valuable and useful. I will definitely be using this source as a part of my research.

"Martin Luther King, Jr." *American Decades* 1998. Rpt. in *Biography Resource Center*. Chicago:

Gale, 1987. Web. 2 Feb. 2015.

This American Decades article focuses on several aspects of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life through the listing out of his accomplishments in biographical format. It is listed in brief bulleted paragraphs that only offer small insights into each area of King's life. It offers details on areas such as where he attended college, when he was assassinated, and when he won the Nobel Peace Prize. It briefly mentions where he was born and activities he was involved in, but it does not assess his involvement in any of these activities. In fact, it just states what the activities were like. This article does offer many important facts about King that are heroic in nature, but it does not offer much detail about each of the events that it refers to. It focuses mainly on dates and places. So, while one could make a case for heroism based on a number of the facts presented in this article, it still lacks enough information to make it a helpful source for the purposes of this paper. The source would be more useful if it tried adding detail that reviewed the significance of these events instead of just listing them. It is for those reasons that this article is not something I will be using as research for my paper.

Canva Overview

Canva is an online design tool that allows you to make presentations using unique graphics and fonts. You will need to go to www.canva.com and create a free account to use this resource. Once you log in, follow the directions to complete the tutorial, then decide what type of medium you want to use to create your presentation. For this project, the presentation format may work best, but you are free to use other formats as long as you meet the requirements for the project.

While Canva is a simple method for creating presentations, we will have a short tutorial in class and you will have opportunities to work on your project and get help in the computer lab in the upcoming weeks. Canva offers free graphics, backgrounds, and fonts, but they also charge for some designs. There is no need to use any of the graphics they charge for, all of the free tools are sufficient for completing this project.

Research Log

This worksheet is designed to help you keep track of your research sources and ensure that you have cited them properly.

As you find a source that you *will* be using in your paper, you will fill in the source box below. The source box allows you space to mark the type of source you have found and create a citation for it.

You will then need to be sure to print/photocopy your source both for future reference.

Once you are certain you have completed each box properly, you will bring this worksheet to your teacher, who will then check your citations and initial that it is correct. *It is only after you have received your teacher's initials that you should assume you have completed your documentations correctly.*

Here is an example of a correctly filled out source box.

Type of source: ___ Book ___ Website ___ Periodical ___ <u>X</u> Database
Citation: (don't forget to double space and use a hanging indent) "Stephen W. Hawking." <i>Notable Mathematicians</i> . Online Edition. Gale, 2008. Rpt. in <i>Biography Resource Center</i> . Farmington Hills: Gale, 11 July 2009. Web. 25 Jan. 2010. <p style="text-align: right;">Teacher's Initial: _____</p>

Type of source: ___ Book ___ Website ___ Periodical ___ Database
Citation: (don't forget to double space and use a hanging indent) <p style="text-align: right;">Teacher's Initial: _____</p>

Type of source: ___Book ___ Website ___ Periodical ___ Database

Citation: (don't forget to double space and use a hanging indent)

Teacher's Initial: _____

Type of source: ___Book ___ Website ___ Periodical ___ Database

Citation: (don't forget to double space and use a hanging indent)

Teacher's Initial: _____

The name of the person whose Canva project you edited: _____

Canva Peer Edit 1

1. **Write down** repetitive word choices.
2. **Write down** the thesis. Is it supported by facts or just opinion?
3. Are there places in the presentation that need additional details or examples or explanation? What information do you still want from the writer?
4. **List** all the transition words used. Should they add more?
5. Are the sentences well written? Are they clean, clear, and understandable? Are there any places where sentences need to be cut into two for greater clarity?
6. **Write down** all spelling, possible punctuation errors, and any abbreviations that need to be fixed.
7. Does the end of the presentation satisfy you as a reader? Does the writer leave you with something provocative to think about?
8. After you have read the introduction to the presentation, consider the title. Is it original? Does it still seem to fit? Can you suggest something?

Canva Peer Edit 1 Continued:

9. What is especially interesting or effective about this presentation? After reading it, what do you most clearly remember about it?

Completely fill the table below out.

Ideas and Content	Weak	Average	Strong
The introduction and conclusion establish the controlling idea, and every part of the paper supports that controlling idea.			
Very clear and well-presented facts and details clearly and consistently support the controlling idea of the paper.			
Writer's work choice and language is clear, concise, and appropriate to the expository writing task			
Writer shows consistent command of grammar with only minor punctuation or spelling mistakes.			

The name of the person canva site you edited: _____

Canva Peer Edit 2

1. **Write down** repetitive word choices.
2. **Write down** the thesis. Is it supported by facts or just opinion?
3. Are there places in the presentation that need additional details or examples or explanation? What information do you still want from the writer?
4. **List** all the transition words used. Should they add more?
5. Are the sentences well written? Are they clean, clear, and understandable? Are there any places where sentences need to be cut into two for greater clarity?
6. **Write down** all spelling, possible punctuation errors, and any abbreviations that need to be fixed.
7. Does the end of the presentation satisfy you as a reader? Does the writer leave you with something provocative to think about?
8. After you have read the introduction to the presentation, consider the title. Is it original? Does it still seem to fit? Can you suggest something?

Canva Peer Edit 2 Continued:

9. What is especially interesting or effective about this presentation? After reading it, what do you most clearly remember about it?

Completely fill the table below out.

Ideas and Content	Weak	Average	Strong
The introduction and conclusion establish the controlling idea, and every part of the paper supports that controlling idea.			
Very clear and well-presented facts and details clearly and consistently support the controlling idea of the paper.			
Writer's word choice and language is clear, concise, and appropriate to the expository writing task			
Writer shows consistent command of grammar with only minor punctuation or spelling mistakes.			