

Current Issues Project

Components and Assessment:

Research proposal; gathering, evaluating, and documenting sources.....*daily grades*
Rough draft; Timed writing; Final draft.....*test grades*
Notated Sources; Formal outline.....*homework grades*

Due dates:

Oct. 12	Submit Current Issues Project Topic Selection/Library Research
Oct. 14	Library Research
Oct. 15	Formal Topic Proposal Due
Oct. 18	Library Research
Oct. 19	Notated Source #1 Due
Oct. 20	Outline Due
Oct. 22	Notated Source #2 Due
Oct. 25	Library Research
Oct. 27	Rough Draft Due / In-class Essay (Timed Writing)
Oct. 29	Peer Review Day #1
Nov. 1	Library Research
Nov. 2	Peer Review Day #2
Nov. 3-4	<i>Library Research (Indefinite)</i>
Nov. 5	Final Draft Due / Speech Overview

Overview of the Project:

Step One: Choose a Topic

Choose a controversial issue of concern locally, statewide, nationally, or internationally. Next, pose a broad question about this issue. For example, why is America's educational system lagging behind the rest of the world?

Warning: Do **NOT** choose an emotionally charged topic such as abortion, cloning, the Iraq War, stem cell research, or gay rights. Choose one that can be argued logically as well as emotionally and ethically. Also consider your ability to qualify the argument and make concessions.

Step Two: Narrow the Focus

Narrow the original question to a manageable issue. Consider several possibilities: (for example)

- Are children who are unsupervised by their parents playing too many video games and watching too much T.V.?
- Are educators behind the times so that children are bored with traditional methods of learning?
- Are children so highly stimulated by our modern society that they enter school unable to pay attention and learn in a structured environment?
- Are students only interested in the visual message (TV, computer) so that they cannot listen?

Step Three: Annotate Resources

- Once the research question has been approved, find **SIX** articles, editorials, survey results, postings, statistics, and/or news stories that respond to the question. **Four of the six documents must be articles or editorials. One must be a "visual" or "graphic" (cartoon, chart, etc.)** These documents should present a *variety of viewpoints*.
- Print a copy of these sources and make annotations. I will provide you with instructions for the annotation process at a later date.

Step Four: Draft, Peer Review, and Finalize a Research Paper

- Please review the due dates at the top of this document for further details.

Step Five: Complete a Timed Writing

- On the designated date, complete a 40-minute timed writing related to the research question incorporating material from at least **three** of your sources.

Step Six: Prepare, Rehearse, and Present Speech

- I will provide you with further details on this process at a later date.