**San Marin High School  
Junior Research Paper 2020**

**PROMPT**: Choose a problem, issue, or concern that affects the US. Using a minimum of five sources, including a book, write a paper taking a stand on the issue. Analyze the situation thoroughly in the paper; include a refutation. If your topic is not represented then you can check with your teacher for approval.

* Gather at minimum **five** sources about this topic with at least one **book**. Students wishing to earn an A should be using at least **seven** sources.
  + Acceptable sources would be:
    - Primary source historical documents: political documents, letters, interviews
    - Newspapers and news magazines such as *Newsweek, Time, U.S. News & World Report, The Economist*
    - TV shows such as *Frontline, Dateline, Ted Talk, verified Youtube source*
    - Other Historical texts and databases
  + Many of these sources can be accessed online for free.
  + A source must be significant length: no one or two paragraph articles.
  + No wikipedia or encyclopedias
  + Use tools to identify credible sources
* Write a paper which analyzes and takes a stand on the issue. (Argument!)
* Use what you learned in our Justice/Philosophy unit to analyze the underlying assumptions and arguments of different positions on your topic.
* Requirements for Paper

1. 6-8 pages
2. Typed using MLA format
3. Analyze the issue thoroughly
4. Include different kinds of persuasive appeals, e.g. *logos, ethos, pathos*
5. Language is formal and serious: appropriate for argument.
6. Grammar and usage are correct
7. Vocabulary is elevated
8. Your viewpoint is clear (thesis/statement of purpose) and well supported
9. Counterargument (refutation) is included and valid
10. Analysis of topic is organized within your argument logically and clearly

This paper will be submitted both electronically via Turnitin and in hard copy.

**Due Dates**

* **Jan 31 (Fri): Topic due**
* **Feb 7 (Fri): Two annotated sources**
* **Feb 14 (Fri): Three annotated sources**
* **March 6 (Fri): Outline and Annotated Bibliography (hard copy)**
* **March 24/25 (Block Day): First Draft (hard copy and via Turnitin)**
* **April 17 (Fri): Final paper (submitted via Turnitin and hard copy)**

**OUTLINE (due 3/6)**

I. **Introduction:**

1. Introduces your topic.
2. Provides general historical context.
3. Complex thesis statement provides your position clearly and comprehensively.

II. **Historical Background**: gives an overview of the historical events that lead up to the issue in your topic (Note: final copy will be **2 pages minimum**)

A. Discusses early part of relevant history

B. Discusses middle part of relevant history

C. Discusses more recent relevant history

D. Shows **why** those historical events have led to the current issue and how they continue to play a role in the current issue.

III. **My position strength #1 - Support**

A. States your position and provides the most important and strongest evidence.

1. Identifies part of strength #1 and how this supports your position.

1. Gives evidence/ examples/ data to support your position.
2. Provides analysis/interpretation of evidence relating back to thesis.

2. Identifies another part of strength #1 and how this supports your position.

1. Gives evidence/ examples/ data to support your position.
2. Provides analysis/interpretation of evidence relating back to thesis.

IV. **My position strength #2 - Support** (Same requirements as #1)

V. **My position strength #3 - Support** (Same requirements as #1)

VI. **Refuting Opposing Arguments:**

A. States opposing position in a general way.

1. Provides the **strongest** evidence that contradicts your thesis (no Strawmen).

1. Gives evidence/ examples/ data for the opposing position.
2. Provides analysis/interpretation of evidence in relation to your position.

B. Explains why the opposing argument is unconvincing or less convincing.

1. Returns to the strengths of your previous evidence (III through V).

2. Establishes why your thesis is stronger than the opposing position.

VII. **Current Issue** (you may mention this in introduction as part of relevancy/urgency)

A. Provides a discussion of current issue that has clear relevance to your topic or shows a direct current result of your historical topic

1. Very recent (within the last few months to a year)
2. Gives clear evidence
3. Directly tied into your thesis
4. Explains what we should think about this current event

VIII. **Conclusion**:

A. Restates your thesis in a new way, taking into account what you have already written in the essay.

B. Provides an overview of the arguments covered in the essay.

C. Provides a final thought about the topic you have discussed. The final thought answers the question, “So what? Why does this matter?” and leaves the reader with something to think about, *without merely repeating information already provided in the essay.*

**Notes**:

* Some sections will be a paragraph or two, others, such as the history section, will be pages.
* The entire essay will be a minimum of six pages, not including Works-Cited.
* Be sure to provide the strongest arguments possible, including a strong counterargument.
* All of this must be done in MLA format.
* Keep the language formal and cite all important information.