D12: MLA-Style Editorial Persuasive Research Paper
(200 pts total possible – 1ˢᵗ **Draft (50 pts)** Due: D17; **2ⁿᵈ Draft (50 pts)** Due: D19 - **Final** (100 pts) Due: D22)

a) Use the Internet to **find information about one a controversial topic that is of personal interest to you:**

- If you need some ideas, see www.procon.org, or, if you want to research something that will **possibly be one of our topics for our debate,** pick one of the following here: https://goo.gl/k5pcB7

b) **After reviewing your chosen issue, I'd like you to pick a side.** This needs to be *your* opinion. **What conclusion(s) have you come to?** How do you support your conclusion(s)? **Why should others agree with you?** Make sure that you use a **thesis statement,** address **conclusions** you have made, and have a **concluding paragraph** that ties all of your conclusions together.

c). **Remember: Write an original report in your own words.** Make sure that you understand plagiarism in all its forms so you don't accidentally plagiarize in this work. (Plagiarism includes not quoting sources of your info, so cite your sources!)

d) **Use any appropriate vocabulary terms from this unit for the report.** This report should be three or more pages in length: 12 pt Times New Roman typed pages (600-1000 words), a Works Cited page and use in-text citations. Title your report: **"Insert Catchy Name Here"**

Please see: https://goo.gl/mKUnSx or review the **example essay** on the class website if you are not familiar with MLA / APA format citations. Also, please use a **12 pt Times New Roman font**. Be ready to first **submit** the **written report** on **D17, present** a **draft** on **D19,** and the **final presentation** on **D22.**
Come looking **professional** and ready to wow us.

Write or type the essay and edit so as to be free of spelling and punctuation errors. Using a **word processor** / **Google Docs** will be the best way to accomplish this.

e) Grading

Your report will be based on the grading criteria listed below. It will be broken into categories that can be viewed in the rubric:

- Is the major idea **clear** and **easily identified** in the introduction? Are all ideas or terms well defined?
- Is the essay plainly divided into **at least five major sections:** introduction (one paragraph), body (three or more paragraphs), and conclusion/summary (one paragraph.)?
- Is the supporting information **organized effectively** and tied in to the main idea?
  Is the major idea **backed up** by **accurate information** and is the **information credible**?
- Does the conclusion sum up the essay well and make a strong final statement?
- Is the **Works Cited** page adequate and documented **accurately**? You may use either APA or MLA citations, in case you prefer one or the other. The **essay** format however will follow **MLA guidelines.**
- Do you understand **MLA** / **APA format** and are you following it **correctly**? Are there in-text citations to show where the information was taken from? (See the citation URLs below)
- Was your presentation persuasive and professional? Was it enjoyable to read / listen to?
- Works Cited makers can be found at: http://www.easybib.com/ or http://citationmachine.net

f) Rubric:

Criteria	Accomplished 16-20%	Satisfactory 11-15%	Developing 6-10%	Beginning 0-5%	Score
Viewpoint	Editorial states a clear opinion and issues a call to action through argument based on evidence.	Editorial has a somewhat clear opinion, and perhaps makes a call to action, although the opinion and the actions may not be as clear as they ought to be.	Editorial is a bit confusing. Opinion may not be immediately clear, and what actions we ought to take are muddled. Evidence may not be all that relevant.	Editorial content is murky and confusing. Evidence does not seem to support the argument (if there is one), and the author's viewpoint is unclear.	
	Notes:				
Evidence & Presentation	Editorial uses compelling evidence to support the opinion, and is correctly cited. Presenter is fully engaged, excited & prepared and follows the time allotted.	Editorial uses evidence that appears to be mostly cited. Presenter at times seem fully engaged, excited and mostly follows the time allotted.	Editorial attempts to cite the sources, though it is sloppy, incorrect, etc. Presenter is polite, but not very enthusiastic / distracted and the time frame is only loosely followed.	Editorial sources are not documented at all. Presenter seems disinterested in the topic, distracted, etc. Time frame is not followed well.	
	Notes:				
Analysis & Persuasion	Editorial convincingly argues point of view by providing relevant background information, uses valid examples, acknowledges counter claims, and developing claims -- all in a clear and organized fashion.	Editorial argues point of view by providing some relevant background information, valid examples, etc. May acknowledge counter claims, starts to develop claims in a mostly clear manner.	Editorial message is somewhat clear, but not very powerful or strong. Info is vague / not terribly convincing. Organization is lacking, and claims are underdeveloped.	Editorial message is unclear or weak, and the reader / listener struggles to understand the point. Ignores counter-arguments, and own claims are unfounded.	
	Notes:				
Language	Editorial has a strong voice and engages the audience. It uses language, style and tone appropriate to its purpose and features correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Editorial has a decent voice and begins to engage the audience. Language, style and tone begin to strengthen its purpose and it mostly features correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Editorial has a developing voice and attempts to engage the audience Language, style and tone attempt to strengthen its purpose, though grammar, spelling and punctuation detract from its message.	Editorial is lacking in original voice, and the language, style, & tone are defective. Conventions (grammar, spelling, etc.) are poor and need work.	
	Notes:				
Guidelines	Editorial follows MLA formatting, and correctly uses MLA / APA citations. It follows the 600-1000 word format, and is completed on time and submitted on time to www.writetheworld.com	Editorial mostly follows MLA formatting, and attempts to use MLA / APA citations. It nearly follows the 600-1000 word format, and is likely on time and submitted on time to www.writetheworld.com	Editorial attempts to follow MLA formatting & citations. It is close to the 600-1000 word format, though perhaps not on time.	Editorial fails to follow MLA formatting & citations. It ignores the 600-1000 word format, and is not submitted on time.	
Comments:				**Total Score:**	