D3: MLA-Style Persuasive Research Paper
(100 pts total possible – 1st **Draft** Due**:** D5 - **Final** Due: D7)

a) Use the Internet to **find information about one of the following controversial topics:**

- **Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?**   **https://socialnetworking.procon.org/**
- **Should We Build a Wall on our Southern Border?**   **https://immigration.procon.org/**
- **Should More Gun Control Laws Be Enacted?**   **https://gun-control.procon.org/**

(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 pages in length: two 12 pt Times New Roman typed pages (at least 300-400 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 submit and present the report on the due date (D7 / Jan. 29th). 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.

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 important ideas or terms well defined?
- Is the essay plainly divided into at least five major sections: introduction (one paragraph), body (three 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 the supporting information and is the information accurate?
- 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)

Works Cited makers can be found at: http://www.easybib.com/ or http://citationmachine.net
MLA Formatting Info; APA Style Guide Info;

Rubric:

Criteria	Accomplished 16-20%	Satisfactory 11-15%	Developing 6-10%	Beginning 0-5%	Score
Context & Accuracy	Contains fresh, original ideas. Solid content is backed up with examples, illustrations and a variety of support for ideas. The product contains at least 7-6 accurate facts about the topic.	Good ideas and content backed up with generalized examples. Accurate wording is apparent. Support for ideas is all of the same type. The product contains at least 5-3 accurate facts about the topic.	Stale ideas. Worn-out. Content is not well supported. The writer is beginning to define the topic, but development is still basic or general. The product contains some accurate facts about the topic.	No real ideas. Content is murky or unsupported. No awareness of audience is apparent. As yet, it has no clear purpose or central theme. Hardly any accurate facts are included.	
Notes:					
Structure	All information is well-organized, neat and easy to follow. Illustrations used are well done, powerfully reinforcing the message	Information is easy to follow with perhaps some minor flaws. Illustrations used are adequate, and reinforce the message	Information is starting to make sense, but still a bit difficult to follow, and a bit messy. Illustrations used are adequate, but lack originality, and weakly support the message	Information is poorly organized and difficult to read / understand. Illustrations used are poor, rehashed ideas from other sources; don't really support the message	
Notes:					
Message Strength	The message to the viewers is clear, strong, & persuasive; viewer easily understands the message. Answers all of the required questions	The message is clear. Uses several different persuasive techniques to good effect; answers most of the required questions	The message is somewhat clear, but not very powerful or strong. Answers several of the required questions	The message is unclear or weak, and the viewer struggles to understand the point. Doesn't answer the required questions	
Notes:					
Creativity	Student has taken the assignment and completed it in a way that is totally his/her own. The student's personality/voice comes through quite strongly, yet doesn't detract from the information presented.	Student has taken the assignment and has used source material as a starting place. The student's personality comes through in some parts of the presentation.	Student has copied some info straight from the source material. There is little evidence of creativity, but the student has done the assignment.	Student has not made much attempt to meet the requirements of the assignment.	
Notes:					
Presentation & Sources	Info, pictures used, etc., is correctly & fully cited. Presenter(s) fully engaged, excited & prepared and follow(s) the time allotted.	Info, pictures used, etc., appear to be mostly cited. Presenter(s) at times seem(s) fully engaged, excited and mostly follow(s) the time allotted.	An attempt was made to cite the sources, though it is sloppy, incorrect, etc. Presenter(s) is polite, but not very enthusiastic and the time frame is only loosely followed.	Sources are not documented at all. Presenter(s) seem(s) not interested in the topic at all, distracted, etc. Time frame is not followed well.	

Comments:

Total Score: