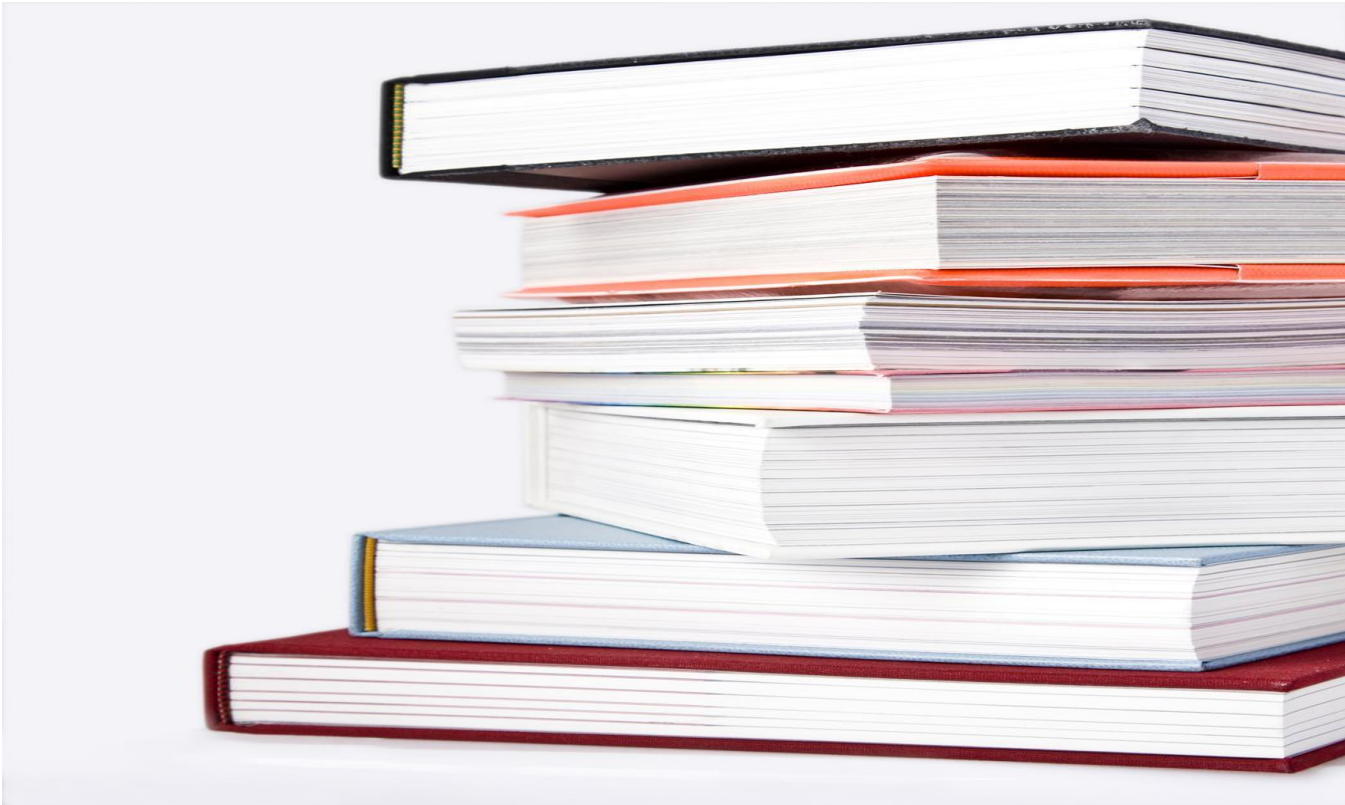


AP English Language & Composition  
Synthesis Research Project  
2014~2015



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Research Synthesis Project

## OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to familiarize themselves with current, debatable events from local to global issues.
- Students will be able to assess an author's credibility.
- Students will be able to compile information from primary and secondary sources using available technology.
- Students will be able to synthesize and evaluate diverse and divergent information and ideas into an original product.
- Students will be able to document facts, ideas, and quotations with accuracy and integrity using correct MLA format.
- Students will be able to select and develop writing topics.
- Students will be able to research complex and difficult topics and present the results with creativity and depth of analysis.

## SOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

- 6 sources
- Sources should be current. I prefer nothing older than 5 years. **Absolutely nothing older than 10 years will be accepted.** In other words, check the copyright or publication date. We don't want anything dated before 2005.
- Most of your sources must come from the library databases. They are your friends!!
- Only 1 book source will be accepted.
- **Google is NOT a source.** Google is a search engine. The same can be said for Ask.com or any of the other myriad of search engines on the internet. They can be helpful in locating information, but they DO NOT review the information. It is up to you to decide if a source is valid and reliable. Be careful!! When in doubt, ask.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

### STEP ONE:

- You must work individually. Each student will choose a controversial issue that is currently and consistently being discussed. The issue can be local, national, or global in scope.

### STEP TWO:

- Find 6 (six) periodicals, essays, or articles about your topic.
- One of your sources **MUST** be a visual (i.e. cartoon, chart, picture, ad or graph).
- Sources must be balanced (equal amount of PRO/CON)
- Typed an annotated bibliography that includes ALL your sources. (see attached for instructions)

### STEP THREE:

- Develop an AP Synthesis Question that requires synthesizing the sources into a coherent and well-written essay.
- Put your project together using the teacher guidelines in a 3-prong, pocket folder.

**PROJECT DUE DATE:** Monday/Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> 2015 (15 Bonus Points) or Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> (your choice)

## Issues, Positions, Assertions, and Rhetoric

Issues: Points at which individuals disagree; the large question underlying people's opinions.

Positions: The opinion formed by an individual on an issue; the way the individual ANSWERS the question posed by the issue.

Assertions: A statement offered as truth, which is actually an opinion; the FOUNDATION of every argument.

Rhetoric: The art of using language to persuade. This involves choosing words carefully because of the effect they will have on the people one is trying to persuade. In rhetoric, one recognizes issues, different positions on issues, and the assertions that individuals make as they express their opinions.

### Issues - the greatest questions that inspire debate

The following issues emerge in literature, in history, and in our society today. If you will focus on these issues, you will be able to connect our study of literature and history to your own experience and knowledge of the world.

- What obligations does a just individual have toward society?
- Why do evil and suffering exist?
- How should people treat each other?
- What obligations does a just society owe to an individual?
- What are the limits on individual freedom?
- How does an individual judge right from wrong?
- What is the role of the individual in confronting injustice?
- What kind of government is effective?
- How does a society contend with the dichotomies (divisions into two) presented by freedom and equality? Americans are all equal and free. But my freedom might threaten your equality.
- How does an individual experience redemption?
- What is the role of love in the redemption of an individual and/or society?  
The health of a society rests in part upon the ability of its members to love. When a novelist depicts a world without love, society is characterized by neglect, apathy, and cruelty.
- Does the accumulation of money and power inevitably lead to a loss of spirituality?

### What do you think?

The purpose of focusing on issues is to get you to think and take your own informed position on these.

### Possible Topics for Contemporary Issues Project

- |                                      |                                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Terrorism                         | 13. Art & Music                     | 25. Alternative Fuel Sources             |
| 2. Environment vs. industrialization | 14. Social Security & Retirement    | 26. Video Game Violence                  |
| 3. Obesity in America                | 15. Illiteracy                      | 27. Youtube & Copyright                  |
| 4. Education/ Homeschooling          | 16. Slave Trade                     | 28. Organic Food / Food Sources          |
| 5. Reality Shows                     | 17. Cosmetic Surgery                | 29. Pluto                                |
| 6. Economy                           | 18. Suburban Poverty                | 30. Accepted Roles in Mainstream America |
| 7. Stem Cell Research                | 19. Appearance Bias                 | 31. Technology                           |
| 8. Driving Safety and technology     | 20. Comedy: Too Funny or Too Far?   | 32. Racial Profiling                     |
| 9. Immigration                       | 21. Corporal Punishment in the Home | 33. HPV Vaccine                          |
| 10. Advertising and Body Image       | 22. Virtual Government              | 34. Autism                               |
| 11. National Health Insurance        | 23. Nature vs Nurture               | 35. Veterans Affairs                     |
| 12. Privacy                          | 24. Cheating                        |  |

## Instructions for Preparing an Annotated Bibliography

What is an annotated bibliography? An annotated bibliography is basically a works cited page with a summary of each source included.

1. Find a source related to the issue you selected.
2. **PRINT or PHOTOCOPY** the source (make sure to make 2 copies of each source, one to annotate and one to place with our prompt)
3. Document the source of the article on an index card using correct MLA format. Staple the index card to the source.
4. Label the source A, B, C, D, etc. Color coding is helpful.
5. **Read and annotate** the source carefully.
6. Write a summary for the source. Generally, a summary is ½ the length or less of the original article. Use your own words, deflate vocabulary, and be succinct.
7. Type the source in correct MLA format and type the summary underneath. Be sure you double space. See example below.
8. Repeat the above steps for each source.

### Source A

Quindlen, Anna. "Contrition as Leadership". *Newsweek*. 8 January 2007:56.

Following President George W. Bush's address to the American public concerning the war in Iraq, noted liberal columnist Anna Quindlen, laments President Bush's failure to admit that his Iraq war policy is, was and has always been wrong and his failure to accept full responsibility for the events that have taken place. She cites examples of past presidents such as Lincoln and Kennedy who did admit mistakes, even grave ones such as Kennedy's public acceptance of responsibility for the debacle that was the Bay of Pigs. Quindlen blames male ego in part for the President's recalcitrance noting that to admit bad judgment is "an affront to masculinity" particularly the American male ego. Quindlen quotes famed presidential biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin who says, "They [presidents] fear it suggests weakness to acknowledge error when in fact it suggests strength, self confidence, and the ability to learn and grow". Quindlen also notes that "an apology has four parts: admitting fault, showing remorse, admitting damage, and indicating how it will be repaired." She states that many people on all sides of the Iraq war debate would relish such a list from the President. Some would want this because they have opposed the Iraq war from the beginning, others, particularly Republicans, would like this because the war has turned into something of an albatross around the party's neck. Quindlen concludes by returning to Lincoln who purportedly said "of changing his mind...that he hoped he was smarter today than he was yesterday". Quindlen says this is true for the American people and that she wishes it was true for the president as well.

## Frequently Asked Questions and their Answers...

- Which font do I use? 12 pt. Times New Roman ONLY
- How do I turn my paper in? Your paper should be submitted in a 3 prong, pocket folder. The Synthesis Question should be first followed by your sources (clean copy) and ending with your Annotated Bibliography (sample on pg. 4). Your annotated sources should be labeled, in order, in the back pocket. A copy of the rubric should be in the front pocket
- Can I decorate my folder? NO! This is not art class.
- When is my paper due? A Days: Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 B Days: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at the beginning of your regularly scheduled class period for 15 bonus points OR Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for no bonus points.
- Can I print my paper when I get to class on the due date? NO!
- What if I can't find ANY information in the library? This is HIGHLY unlikely. If you can't find something, then you aren't trying or aren't looking in the right place. Seek help from a librarian, a friend, or me.
- What if I don't have money for the copy machine? That is unfortunate. Find a friend.
- What if I forgot my folder? That is unfortunate. You will receive a zero for the day.
- What if I am absent the day it is due? That is unfortunate; however, since this is a previously announced assignment and due date, an absence does not extend your due date.
- What if my printer runs out of ink the night before? I guess you'll be at Kinkos, (they're open 24 hrs you know). By the way, this is what happens when you wait until the last minute!
- What if I don't have my paper on Monday/Tuesday? You will forfeit your opportunity to earn 15 bonus points.
- What if I don't have my paper on Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> ? Okay, now we have a problem. You now have a zero on this assignment. You have 1 day in which to complete the assignment and turn it in to me for a maximum grade of **C**

Last Name, First : \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Synthesis Question Project Rubric

	Possible	Score
❖ Part 1	35	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Synthesis Prompt/Question (15)</li><li>• 5 written sources/ 1 visual (10)</li><li>• Equal Distribution – PRO/CON (10)</li></ul>		
❖ Part 2	60	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annotated Bibliography (10)</li><li>• 6 summaries, typed, correct MLA format (50)</li></ul>		
❖ Project Folder	5	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correct order, in brads<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Synthesis Question</li><li>○ Sources (clean)</li><li>○ Annotated Bibliography</li><li>○ Annotated sources (back pocket)</li></ul></li></ul>		

Total Points: 100 \_\_\_\_\_

**Minus 1 point for each misspelled word or typo**

**Minus 1 point for each punctuation error or for each missing mark.** - \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_