

Synthesis Essay Packet for Researched Argument

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Due date: _____ Project is worth _____ points

Your assignment is to create a question and a packet of sources that one of your classmates might use to write a researched argument essay. Preferably, your topic is not one about which your classmates have already made up their minds. You want your classmates to read a variety of information and develop their own informed opinions about a subject of current debate.

For example:

- Should juveniles be tried as adults?
- Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?

Talk to your friends, parents, older siblings, college students, neighbors, teachers, etc. Get them to help you come up with a topic.

You will create a packet of seven one-page sources. In the packet, you need:

- A page with your question—your essay “prompt.”
- Some explanatory information above the prompt about the nature of the topic. Perhaps you will include why people are talking about this issue.
- Six no more than one-page articles (or excerpts from articles) from reputable sources. The six sources should offer a variety of viewpoints and data from which your writer can reach an informed opinion on his or her own.
- For each source, you must include all of the bibliographic citation information available to you, and you must use the form I have provided on Edline.
- One source that is a “visual” text—a graph, chart, editorial cartoon, or picture.

How to find articles for your packet. Use the search features for the many data bases the Carlos Library subscribes to. Newspapers and magazines are your best source. The Carlos Library page contains links and passwords for the New York Times, the AJC, ProQuest, and other fine databases. Do **not** Google your topic as the first thing you do. Do **not** use sources that are not generated by a reputable organization. Ask me if you are in doubt.

Source Citation. You must provide the following information.

- Author's full name and credentials (job title, affiliation)
- Name of organization posting the information
- Publication name
- Date published
- Date you saw and copied the page
- URL

Use the following form to format the sources for your Synthesis Essay Packet

Source (A, B etc)

Author's full name:

Title of article:

Name of publication:

Name of organization posting the information:

Date this material was published:

Date you saw it and copied it:

URL:

Additional information: What are the author's credentials and for whom does he or she work?
Reporter? Professor? Scientist?

Paste your article here