

## COVID-19 Synthesis Prompt

Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in China on December 31, 2019, the world has watched as the global spread of the coronavirus has slowly disrupted our lives. From a stock market crash to cancelling travel plans, to colleges moving to on-line instruction and grocery stores running out of toilet paper, the impact of the coronavirus has been stunning.

One of the immediate questions for public schools has been whether to close our buildings and move to online or distance learning models as many universities around the world, and most schools in China, have already done. Public school superintendents meet daily with local health officials to discuss the current state of the pandemic and weigh their options.

While MCPS has been forthcoming in reassuring the community that they are monitoring the situation closely, and have made it clear that the decision to close will come from Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services, DHHS has not shared the factors that they consider in this decision making process.

**YOUR TASK:** Research the current state of the coronavirus spread, the measures that have been taken in China, Italy, the US, and in other places around the world to slow the rate of spread. Gather **at least eight reputable sources** and **develop your position on what factors should be considered when deciding whether to move MCPS to online/distance learning.**

### THE SOURCES:

- 8 sources
- From credible sources such as major news outlets, CDC and other government organizations, PEW Research center, universities, etc.
- Sources must reflect the following considerations: public health, economic impact, social impact, privilege, community, morals/values  
*You are encouraged to look for sources that address these issues in conjunction with each other rather than in isolation.*
- Document your sources by creating an annotated bibliography (see guide) in which you write out a full MLA citation, a brief summary of the source, and an explanation of the factors and considerations raised- pay close attention to the model on the guide!

### YOUR ESSAY:

- Write an essay similar in format and structure to an AP Lang Synthesis essay.
- Clearly identify the factors that you think should be considered when deciding whether to move MCPS to online/distance learning
- Support your position using AT LEAST three of your sources
- AVOID SUMMARIZING!

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## Annotated Bibliography Guide

1. Cite each source using MLA format including hanging indents
  2. Write 2 paragraphs for each source summarizing the major claims and reflecting on how the source could be useful in addressing the prompt (what factors are addressed or what considerations are raised).
- Use these resources to help you:
    - [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/common\\_writing\\_assignments/annotated\\_bibliographies/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/index.html)
    - [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/common\\_writing\\_assignments/annotated\\_bibliographies/annotated\\_bibliography\\_samples.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/annotated_bibliography_samples.html)

## Sample:

Clarke, Sandy. "Can Any Good Come from Materialism?" *Star2.Com*, Star2.Com, 19 Oct. 2017, [www.star2.com/living/viewpoints/2017/08/20/good-materialism/](http://www.star2.com/living/viewpoints/2017/08/20/good-materialism/).

This article questions the negative connotations that are associated with materialism and provides theoretical examples and metaphors from which a comparison can be drawn. The author, Sandy Clarke, states that people may buy objects not to show off, but to represent who we want to be through physical reminders. She also points out that obtaining objects can lead to dissatisfaction because they do not meet the initial anticipation of gaining it. Noting that there are both subtle wrongs and rights of materialism, Clarke is able to distinguish the practical side of materialism through the mess that is known as the broad spectrum of materialism.

Clarke demonstrates how one can question the liability of materialism, but also provides evidence that could qualify materialism if the topic was specifically about the parameters that define materialism. Her article contains evidence that could support materialism as a positive support for children, since it allows them to express themselves, yet could also be used against materialism for children, since it can cause dissatisfaction and guilt.