

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

## Choose a Side (and Back it up!)

You will research a **controversial issue** (local, state, national, or worldwide) that has significance for a wide audience and decide where you stand. **You will develop and present your claim in a formal presentation** using research-based facts and arguments.

### The Process

1. **Choose a topic** (a sample list will be provided)
2. **Define the issue**
  - Conduct preliminary research to uncover the various perspectives and positions
  - Find basic background information on the topic
3. **Decide on your position/claim**
  - Select the best factual information to support your position
    - Take notes on Noodle Tools note cards
  - Complete the graphic organizer
    - Write your claim
    - Find three (3) supporting arguments for your side
    - Acknowledge the argument(s) for the opposing side
4. **Plan your Presentation**
  - Using your note cards and graphic organizer, develop a presentation that defines your issue, states your claim, and provides evidence/arguments to support that claim.
  - Make a PowerPoint slideshow to accompany your speech.
    - The slides should:
      - bulleted text, no long paragraphs
      - charts and or graphs (to display statistics)
      - related images/pictures

### Research Requirements

- Minimum of **three (3) sources**
  - Make use of the subscription databases through the TMS library site (ABC-Clio, Gale, World Book Online, etc.)
- **3-5 minute presentation**
- PowerPoint slide show for presentation
- **Noodle Tools:** note cards and works cited
- **In-text citations**
  - You should cite any facts that are not considered “common knowledge.”
  - You will have to incorporate the citations into your speech. (i.e. “According to *The Harvard Journal*, 3 out of 4 students feel.....”
- **Works cited page**
  - Print from Noodle Tools, but be sure it’s a Word document that is formatted correctly

## “Choose a Side” Presentation Rubric

Content/Analysis	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	
Background Info.	*Sets the stage with substantial, accurate, and relevant background info.	*Provides relevant and accurate background info.	*Provides some background info.	*Provides little or no background info.	____/5
Clear Statement of Position(s)	*Clearly states position/claim and provides brief explanation (overview of arguments)	*States position/claim	*Attempts to state position/claim	*Lacks statement of position/claim	____/5
Arguments/Support of Claims	*Thoroughly explains three arguments. *Acknowledges opposing viewpoints. *Exceptional quality of information: sophisticated, specific, concrete, and logical.	*Explains 3 arguments. *Satisfactory quality of information: accurate information with specific and concrete support.	*Minimal information  *Questionable quality of information: sketchy, emotional, and vague support.	*Insufficient information  *Inaccurate support	____/30
In-text citations	*Reliable, varied, and cited sources *Sources that strongly support position are directly cited during presentation	*Reliable sources  *Cites specific sources during presentation	*Few or questionable sources  *Mentions some sources during presentation	*Insufficient sources  *Does not mention sources during presentation	____/10
<b>Presentation skills</b>					
Format	*Format selected for presentation is highly effective and easy to follow *Presenters consider and connect with audience	*Format selected for presentation is effective	*Format selected for presentation is moderately effective	* Ineffective format for presentation	____/5
Organization	*Highly effective intro. and conclusion *Argument is easily followed *Transition between sections is smooth *Meets time requirements	*Effective introduction and conclusion *Argument can be followed *Transition between sections is apparent *Meets time requirements	*Attempts to include intro. and conclusion *Argument is difficult to follow *Transitions may be lacking *Does not meet time requirements	*Introduction and/or conclusion may be missing or weak *Argument is incoherent *No apparent transitions *Does not meet time requirements	____/10
Delivery	*Evidence of extensive rehearsal *Oral skills enhance presentation: voice is clear and audible, with expression and inflection; minimal use of interrupters *Posture, gestures, and eye contact enhance presentation	*Evidence of rehearsal *Oral skills are adequate: voice is understandable and audible, with adequate expression and minimal use of interrupters *Posture, gestures, and eye contact are adequate and do not detract from presentation	*Evidence of some rehearsal *Oral skills may detract from presentation: voice may be too fast, too low, lack expression; too many interrupters, etc. *Posture, gestures, and eye contact detract from presentation	*No apparent rehearsal  *Presentation is difficult to understand due to poor delivery skills	____/20
PowerPoint/Visuals	*Highly effective integration of high quality visuals *No spelling/grammar errors *Utilizes charts, graphs, images, etc. *Appropriate number of words on every slide	*Effective integration of appropriate visuals *Few spelling/grammar errors *Utilizes some charts, graphs, images, etc. *Appropriate number of words on most slides	*Visuals lacking in quality or not well integrated *Multiple spelling/grammar errors *Minimal use of charts, graphs, images, etc. *Too few or too many words on slides	*Visuals are missing or ineffective *Numerous spelling/grammar errors *Lacking charts, graphs, images, etc. *Number of words per slide does not make sense.	____/15
<b>Total</b>					____/100