Name_____   Topic _____

Choose a Side (and Back it up!)   **Advanced English 9**

> You and a partner will research **a controversial issue** (local, state, national, or worldwide) that has significance for a wide audience and decide where each of you stand on the issue. **You will develop and present your claims 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. **Choose a side**
   - 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 (with your partner)**
   - Using your note cards and graphic organizers, develop a presentation that defines your issue, states each of your claims, and provides evidence/arguments to support those claims.
   - Be sure to debate each aspect of the issue (go back and forth, rather than one side sharing all arguments at once)
   - Make a PowerPoint slideshow to accompany your speech.
     - o 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 each**
  - o Make use of the subscription databases through the TMS library site (ABC-Clio, Gale, World Book Online, etc.)
- **6-10 minute presentation**
- PowerPoint slide show for presentation
- **Noodle Tools:** note cards and works cited
- **In-text citations**
  - o You should cite any facts that are not considered "common knowledge."
  - o 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**
  - o Can be combined or individual
  - o Print from Noodle Tools, but be sure it's a Word document that is formatted correctly