

## Synthesis Essay Packet for Researched Argument

Due date: January 16, 2018 Project is worth a summative 30% grade.

### Part I:

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 **six** 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.
- **Five** no more than one-page articles (or excerpts from articles) from reputable sources. The Five 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 MLA layout that was discussed in class.
- **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 AMHS Library subscribes to. Newspapers and magazines are your best source. The AMHS Library page contains links and passwords for the New York Times, the AJC, ProQuest, and other fine databases. You may also use appropriate book sources as well. 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. -See the MLA packet for how to properly cite your sources.

## Part II

Respond to your prompt in an essay. The Essay portion is worth **45%** and is due the same day as the packet. You will **Print** and **Submit** your final drafts (print to bring to class and submit to turnitin.com).

Write a response to the Synthesis Question you created, synthesizing at least 3 of the sources in your final packet of sources. This will be the actual "paper." Your sources should be integrated meaningfully and cohesively into **YOUR OWN NEW OPINION**. The point is not just to repeat what the sources have said, but to "have a conversation" with them, in which you are a participant, not a reporter. Quotations must be integrated and properly cited within the text. No Works Cited page is necessary, as you have already turned in your annotated bibliography.