I Controversy Paper

The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions.

Leonardo Da Vinci

## Topic Choice:

Choose one of the yes/no controversial questions from the procon.org website or from Intelligence Squared to focus your paper on. You may choose your own yes/no question not from the website with my approval. For this paper to work, your main issue must be framed as a yes/no statement or question.

## Part 1 – Your connection to the controversy. (750 Words Min., First Person)

* **Thesis Generator**: What people have you known or life experiences have you had that have shaped your perspective on your topic?
  + You do not need outside sources for this section unless you have already been personally shaped by one. Your evidence in this section should come from your personal experience.

## Part 2 – Look carefully at the pro side. (1000 Words Min., Third Person, 3 Sources Minimum)

* **Thesis Generator:**  Overall, where is the pro side coming from? What is driving this side of the argument?
  + In this section, be sure to present the best arguments for the pro side, and analyze those arguments using some criteria, framework, or classification system. For example, you might look at the moral and factual arguments separately; or, you might focus your analysis on the quality or character of the sources; or you might demonstrate how each part of the argument boils down to some foundational principle.

## Part 3 – Look carefully at the con side. (1000 Words Min., Third Person, 3 Sources Minimum)

* **Thesis Generator:**  Overall, where is the con side coming from? What is driving this side of the argument?
  + In this section, be sure to present the best arguments for the con side, and analyze those arguments using some criteria, framework, or classification system. For example, you might look at the moral and factual arguments separately; or, you might focus your analysis on the quality or character of the sources; or you might demonstrate how each part of the argument boils down to some foundational principle.

## Part 4 – Design a project or write a paper to demonstrate your critical thinking. Use one of the following questions to guide you, or run another option by me. (750 Words Min., First Person, 2 Sources Minimum)

* Now that you have looked at both sides more deeply, how and why has your perspective shifted?
* Why are you on the side you are on despite the best arguments from the other side?
* Is there a middle ground or room for compromise based on your understanding of the perspectives on the pro and con side?
* After completing parts 1 – 3, have you changed how you see people you strongly disagree with?
* What is the most complex part of this issue? How do you deal with that complexity?
* What would you like to know more about? Use part 4 to continue to research your topic to really get to the bottom of the issue.
* What have you learned about critical thinking by completing parts 1 – 3?