

Outline of the Leading Issues Mini-Research Process

Step 1: Developing basic knowledge: Read the topic summary to understand the basics and importance of the leading issue.

Step 2: Understanding differences of opinion: Read the viewpoint summaries and the hyperlinked articles to understand where the points of difference on the leading issue reside...

1. Select at least 2 articles that *support* the issue
2. Save these articles for use in the following steps
3. Open the articles that you saved for deeper reading and analysis
4. Open a blank word processing document. This will become your **Draft Summary**.
5. Critically read each article and copy and paste the SIRS citation and any significant ideas, opinions, and facts from each article into the blank *Draft Summary* (try to keep this section to 1-2 pages)
6. Select at least 2 articles that *oppose* the issue
7. Copy and paste citations and significant ideas, opinions, and facts into the *Draft Summary*
8. Save and print the *Draft Summary* (use a file name that includes the issue language)
9. Show the *Draft Summary* to your teacher for a signature and approval of your research analysis of the 4 articles

Step 3: Separating Fact from Opinion: Use the articles you selected for the *Draft Summary* and find information that answers the following questions to clarify the competing viewpoints on the issue:

- Provide 2 examples of people or groups *supporting the issue*
- List the reasons they are proposing in favor of the issue
- Of the reasons provided, identify at least 2 facts and 2 opinions

1. Use your *Draft Summary* file to find sentences and paragraphs that provide information that answers the questions above. Use shades of **light green** to change the **color** of the text that provides the best examples of significant information
2. Repeat Step 3 to find and **highlight** information that answers the questions for the *different perspectives*. Use shades of **light red** to mark this text.

Step 4: Making up your own mind: Using the facts and opinions from the *Draft Summary*, write an original and reasoned opinion that *supports or opposes* the issue being researched. Your reasoned opinion should be about 150 words.

1. Use the report model provided below
2. Use your *Draft Summary* to help organize your writing and ideas
3. Integrate the answers to the **essential questions** included in Step 4 in your original and reasoned opinion
4. Copy and paste excerpts and citations from the *Draft Summary* to your **final written report**, using the model format provided on the next page

LEADING ISSUES Final Written Report Template

Summary of Reasoned Opinion

Write approximately 150 words answering the essential questions provided in Step 4.

Who supports this position and why?

Your task is to summarize and cite at least 2 of the resources you provided in Step 2 that SUPPORT your Reasoned Opinion.

Copy/Paste SUPPORT Citation #1:

Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:

Most Significant Fact: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Most Significant Opinion: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Copy/ Paste SUPPORT Citation #2:

Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:

Most Significant Fact: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Most Significant Opinion: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Who *opposes* this position and why?

Your task is to Summarize and cite at least 2 of the resources you provided in Step 2 that OPPOSE your Reasoned Opinion.

Copy/Paste OPPOSITION Citation #1:

Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:

Most Significant Fact: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Most Significant Opinion: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Copy/ Paste OPPOSITION Citation #2:

Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:

Most Significant Fact: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Most Significant Opinion: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)