

Constitution Presentation & Research Paper

FINAL EXAM

The objective of this assignment is designed to allow you to think more in-depth about a constitutional issue and to develop debate and writing skills.

I. Topic Selection:

The constitutional topic you may research should be selected from the following list. If you devise your own topic, it must be approved by Mr. Flint.

- Abortion
- Affirmative action
- Death penalty
- Drug testing (*school and occupational*)
- Gay marriage
- Gun control
- Freedom of the press (*reporting on classified materials...see 'Wikileaks Scandal'*)
- Freedom of speech: (*hate speech, KKK, Neo-Nazis, Black Nationalism, etc.*)
- Marijuana legalization
- Violation of civil rights during war
- School vouchers
- School prayer
- Student rights: freedom of press and expression in school
- Student rights: drug testing and/or search and seizure
- Euthanasia/"right to die"

II. Research:

You will need to conduct research in order to make your presentation and position paper factual and scholarly. We will be in the library to do research three days. Those dates are:

1. **February 17**
2. **February 23**
3. **February 24**

You need to make the best use of this time as well as conduct research outside of class. It is expected that you will be 'on-task' during the days our class is in the library. **You must turn in your research so take notes! The research you turn in must be in YOUR OWN HANDWRITING. Simply printing out pages off of the internet is NOT research.** For the presentation and position paper you are required to have a minimum of four sources, two of which must be in print from. (*yes...books or journals!*)

III. Concentration of Research:

As you research your topic you will need to concentrate your materials so you can focus your presentation and position paper. To aid you, you must focus on:

1. The history of your issue.
2. The connection of your issue to the United States Constitution
3. Arguments and citations from those who support and oppose the issue you selected.
4. The current legal/constitutional status of your issue.
5. What is the future of your issue? What is *your* informed opinion as to what may happen regarding this issue?

IV. **Presentation: (on exam days)**

You are required to give a 5-10 minute presentation to the class on your issue and your findings. Your presentation must have a visual component that represents, and helps explain your issue and findings. This may be a poster, Smart Board, PowerPoint, or video presentation. However, you may not just summarize your position paper or stand before the class and read bullet points aloud off a Power Point! You should provide background and *your* analyses of your issue, state your findings, and prepare for questions from your classmates. All presentations must be respectful and within the rules of this class and Cloverleaf High School.

V. **Position Paper:**

The final portion of this project is the position paper. You will write a 4-5 page (approx. 8-15 paragraphs) paper that addresses your issue and ‘answers’ the five points from: III. Concentration of Research. For this paper you should review some of the information you gave in your presentation but I will be looking for ***you to make an effective and clear argument by taking a position on your issue and supporting it based upon your research and the information you have gained.*** The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins, using a standard size 12 font. All sources must be cited using the Chicago-Style citation method. You must have a bibliography. (**does not count toward the 4-5 pages!**) You will turn in a hard-copy as well as an electronic copy of your paper. Failure to follow ANY of the paper guidelines will result in an automatic failure.

Point Breakdown for Constitution Presentation and Research Paper

Research:	40 points
Presentation:	25 points
Position Paper:	100 points
 TOTAL:	 165 points