

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Have something to say...

AP Goal from College Board: Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience.

Objective: Students will actively add to the discourse on current and controversial issues during in-class discussion and during timed-writing.

Rationale: An important element of a college level rhetoric class is to become a Citizen Rhetor, someone who can converse about important issues of the day and become an active member in the global society. You might say that the Citizen Rhetor's essential question is "How can we use what we've learned to contribute to our society's discourse?" By pulling together ideas from various sources, you become a more productive, informed member of our society. As a citizen rhetor, you will gather ideas from national and international issues throughout this year to add to your knowledge base.

Directions: Over the next week, explore the following topics from the website procon.org. For each topic, you will complete a short assignment as a way to remember the sides of the argument. Remember this is just an introduction to the ideas—you will delve more in depth on some of these topics later this year. You must summarize the topic and political sides (liberal, moderate, and conservative), identify connected ideas and come up with what you think about this idea. Of course, you will be allowed to change your mind throughout the school year. Remember, some of these topics are very controversial, so you will need to be tolerant and sensitive to other's views. For round 1 (this assignment), focus on the reasons on opposing sides, trying not to let your own point of view prevent you from understanding the pros and cons. Think of yourself as an outside observer. On the next round, you will be able to add in your own opinion. You may complete this in any order as long as you get to all of the topics. You will be responsible to "have something to say" on all of the topics when they come up in class, but you choose to research the topics in any order. Your first set of ten (10) topics is due Monday, 03 October 2011 in class.

Here is the list of topics (remember that you may choose to research the topics in any order):

- Standardized Tests
- Teacher Tenure
- Abortion
- D.A.R.E.
- Euthanasia
- Health Care Reform
- Milk
- Obesity
- Prescription Drug Ads
- Right to Health Care