



8th Grade Social Studies

Dear Parents,

Greetings from your 8th grade Mountainside Middle School Social Studies Department. We are writing you to inform you that your child will soon be assigned a significant research paper. This assignment is the district wide Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) which is required by the State of Washington. This will most likely be your child's first experience with a true research paper experience. It is their job to formulate a position on a Constitutional issue, look for credible sources and evidence to support their position, recognize the counter arguments to their position, complete writing process, from rough draft to peer editing to final draft, as well as write an annotated bibliography. The students will choose from a list of topics laden with a variety of Constitutional issues dealing with instances where our individual rights come into conflict with the common good. These are interesting and debatable topics, which we hope will capture the students' interest. We are including the directions that will be given to your student this week.

We cannot stress enough the importance of this required CBA. The assignment is worth 292 points, and as such, will have a major impact on second semester grades. We will lead your child step by step through the process, with portions of the project due at intervals throughout the next 3.5-4 weeks. Your help is greatly needed to ensure the success that we all want for our students. Please support your student by regularly checking Schoology or Google Classroom and PowerSchool for assignment due dates to help hold your student accountable. While we will provide specific instruction and class time to work, your child may still need time and a quiet place at home to think and work on the assignment. Attendance is of extra importance during this time.

If you have any questions feel free to contact your child's Social Studies teacher. We are looking forward to partnering with you to help ensure your student's success on this project.

Sincerely,

Your 8th Grade Social Studies Team.

Julie Bohman, Joel Martin, Kelly Creasey, and Ryan Henderson

Constitutional Issues CBA Directions:

In a cohesive paper, you will:

1. State a position on an issue that considers both individual rights and the common good.
2. Provide background on your position by describing
 - What the issue is
 - Who is involved
 - Why this issue is important.
3. Provide reasons for your position that include:
 - Explain how the Constitution logically supports your position on the issue.
 - Explain how 2 additional pieces of credible information logically supports your position on the issue.
4. Make explicit references within the paper to 4 or more credible sources that provide relevant information AND cite sources within the paper.

Steps to completion:

1. Research—you must have a **minimum** of 4 pages of Cornell notes. Use one page per source.
These are due_____.
2. Once your research is complete fill out your writing organizer.
3. Write rough draft, peer edit, write final draft. You must include 5 words from glossary!! Make them in bold or highlight them in you paper.
4. Annotated Bibliography: Due with your final paper.
 - ABC order
 - Minimum of 4 sources
 - **How** the source is primary or secondary
 - A complete summary of the information you found from each source (from your notes)
5. Complete the comma rules on the back of the grading checklist half sheet. Do not make any marks on the checklist except for your name and period number.