**Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**FYS 100: Research and Confirmation Bias**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

When does your class meet? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Some helpful definitions via Dictionary.com:

**Assertion:** “a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief.” Synonym = declaration

**Justification**: “the action of showing something to be right or reasonable.” “good reason for something that exists or has been done.” Synonym = rationale, evidence, reasoning

Select one topic that you find interesting but that you HAVEN’T made your mind up about YET. Select a topic that you are on the fence about, so to speak.

**Your topic:** (Animal Testing, Gun Control, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Point:** A. In sentence form, outline what the issue is from one particular point of view. You could call this the “pro” side. Phrase it as an assertion/declaration. B. Now, state WHY one side might believe this. This is the justification/rationale for the assertion.

Assertion:

Justification:

**Counterpoint:** Then state what you think someone with a differing opinion would say. What is an alternate point of view? You could call this the “con” side. Phrase it as an assertion/declaration. B. Now, state WHY one side might believe this. This is the justification/rationale for the assertion.

Assertion:

Justification:

Metacognitive Thinking/Metacognition: Thinking about your own thinking. Reflecting on what you think, why you think this way and considering what other points of view one might have on a given issue.

**IF I APPLY (source evaluation tool created by MU Librarians)** <https://libguides.marshall.edu/IFIAPPLY>

**I = Identify** emotions attached to the topic.

* What do you already know about the topic?
* How do you feel about the topic?
* Why do you think you feel this way? Where do those feelings come from?

**Two neutral, objective, unbiased sources**

Source One

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. How do you know this article/information is neutral, objective, unbiased?

Source Two

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. How do you know this article/information is neutral, objective, unbiased?

**POINT: Two sources should align with the “pro” side.**

Source One

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. Credibility – how credible is this source? Why?
8. Relevance - What convinced you that this article/information aligns with this point of view?

Source Two

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. Credibility – how credible is this source? Why?
8. Relevance - What convinced you that this article/information aligns with this point of view?

**COUNTERPOINT: Two sources should align with the point of view of the “con” side or alternate viewpoint.**

Source One

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. Credibility – how credible is this source? Why?
8. Relevance - What convinced you that this article/information aligns with the this point of view/the counterpoint?

Source Two

1. Source: (Example – Time, Newsweek, etc.):
2. Database or where you found it:
3. Author:
4. Date of publication:
5. Length (page numbers):
6. Summary:
7. Credibility – how credible is this source? Why?
8. Relevance - What convinced you that this article/information aligns with this point of view/the counterpoint?

**Final Step: Class Presentation of your findings**

Be prepared to present your research to the class by answering the following. Yes, you need to write your responses below:

* Talk us through the information you found. Which sources would you use and why?
* Has your opinion about the issue changed? Why/why not?
* If not, what would it take for you to change the way you see this issue?