

Presidential Research Project

EQ: Which former president most aligns with your views?

Directions

1. Write a short paragraph explaining which issue(s) are most important to you. Then, write on the board the most important issue (if someone has already written down your issue, put a checkmark next to their statement).
2. Next, you will research the positions of our former presidents.
 - a) You will complete the research individually.
 - b) The research can be based around an issue (research on how all the presidents viewed that issue), or a president (one president's view on all the issues).
 - c) You will **complete all the necessary research** then present your portion to the entire class after you complete your paper.
3. You will complete:
 - A. PRESIDENT POSITION RESEARCH
 - a. **Presidents' Issues Chart:** Take the issue you think is most important and look up what they felt about the issue
 - b. **President Research Handout:** Pick the president you agreed with the most, and figure out where they stand on important issues
 - c. **President Research Summary Questions:** Answer the questions on a separate piece of paper (typed)
 - B. PRESIDENT POSITION PAPER
 - a. You will then write a position paper in which you determine which president's views most align with your views on the key policy issues. The paper (4-5 paragraphs, 6-8 sentences each) should include:
 - i) **Explanation** of which issues are most important to you personally
 - ii) **Determination** of which president most aligns with your views
 - iii) **Specific examples** from your research (charts and questions) to justify position
 - iv) In-text citations **AND** an MLA Citation page
 - C. VISUAL TO ACCOMPANY YOUR WORK
 - a. This can be a poster, Google Presentation, handout, Prezi, etc

PRESIDENTS TO CHOOSE FROM: Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, T. Roosevelt, Wilson, F.D. Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Reagan

President Issues Chart

EQ: Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Use the chart below to analyze the candidates' statements on a chosen campaign issue. Choose 4 candidates and compare their stances on the issue. Mark A if you agree, D if you disagree, and N if you are neutral or unsure of the issue. Then, use the remaining space to take notes on the specifics of the candidate's plan.

| <u>Candidate Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>A</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u> |
| | <u>A</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u> |
| | <u>A</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u> |
| | <u>A</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u> |

President Research Handout

Using your preliminary research, decide who you agree with the most and then fill out where they stood on the issues below. (Don't forget to keep track of your sources, as you will need in-text citations and an MLA works cited page.)

Economy & Jobs

Taxes and Federal Budget

National Security

Healthcare

Immigration

Energy & Environment

National Issues Important During their Election

President Research Summary Questions

Typed on a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions:

1. Based on your research, rank their political issues from 1-6 with 1 being the most important, and 6 being the least important. Explain your ranking.
2. Which president did you agree with on the greatest number of issues?
3. Which president did you agree with on the least number of issues?
4. Is there one issue that is a “deal breaker” for you (The president MUST agree with you on it, or there is no way you would support them)? Explain.
5. Based on your research, which candidate would you be most likely to support if their election was held today? Explain.

| | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| WRITING (1.2) Write with cohesion and clarity | Consistently demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizing thoughts with focus and connecting ideas in a logical sequence• Using appropriate vocabulary and tone.• Using appropriate grammar, usage, and mechanics. | Often demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizing thoughts with focus and connecting ideas in a logical sequence• Using appropriate vocabulary and tone.• Using appropriate grammar, usage, and mechanics. | Occasionally demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizing thoughts with focus and connecting ideas in a logical sequence• Using appropriate vocabulary and tone.• Using appropriate grammar, usage, and mechanics. | Rarely demonstrates the ability to write with cohesion and clarity. |

President Position Paper

EQ: Which former president most aligns with your views?

You will now write a position paper in which you determine which president's views most align with your views on the key policy issues. The paper (4-5 paragraphs, 6-8 sentences each) should include:

1. **Explanation** of which issues are most important to you personally
2. **Determination** of which president most aligns with your views
3. **Specific examples** from you research (charts and questions) to justify position WITH PRIMARY SOURCES
4. In-text citations **AND** an MLA Citation page

| | Advanced (90-100) | Proficient (80-89) | Basic (79 and below) |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| Organization - C2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Original title · Effective/Original thesis · Effective/Original conclusion · Varied transitions · Logical sequencing · Organization enhances the essay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Title is present · Obvious thesis, maybe not the strongest · There is an obvious conclusion · Transitions work well · Structure needs work · Flow of ideas is controlled (makes some sense) · Organization supports the essay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No title · No real thesis · No real conclusion · Sequencing needs work · Awkward flow · Organization is confusing |
| Ideas- C2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Topic is narrow and manageable · Details go beyond the obvious · Accurate details · Ideas are fresh and original · Reader's questions are answered · Writer shows insight · Writer uses an extensive number of specific content vocabulary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Topic is broad · Details attempt to support topic · Mix of general and specific ideas · Ideas are clear · Reader's questions mostly answered · Writer stays on topic · Writer uses an adequate number of specific content vocabulary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Topic roams · Information not adequately developed · Ideas are simple answers · Text is repetitious and random · Writer has not defined the topic · Writer lacks specific content vocabulary |
| MLA- C5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No errors in MLA citation in either the bibliography or the in-text citations · Strong primary sources chosen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 1-3 minor MLA citation errors in bibliography · 1-3 minor MLA citation errors in in-text citations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No bibliography or no citations · Or, Not in MLA format · Or, No primary sources |
| Conventions- C5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spelling is correct · Punctuation is accurate · Capitalization is correctly done · Paragraphing is logical · Writer uses creative writing style that is effective and works · Font is 12pt Times New Roman and double-spaced with normal margins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spelling is usually correct · End punctuation is accurate · Capitalization is usually correct · Paragraphing is attempted · Moderate editing was done · Font is 12pt Times New Roman and double-spaced with normal margins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spelling errors are frequent · Punctuation is incorrect · Capitalization is random · Paragraphing is missing · Prolific errors force reader to decode, then read for meaning · Font is either not 12pt or not Times New Roman or not double-spaced with normal margins |

Helpful Tips

Checklist for Writing a Strong Thesis Statement

| A good thesis statement: | A weak thesis statement is: |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains your subject clearly | <ul style="list-style-type: none">an incomplete thought or fragment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">clarifies your point of view | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a simple statement of fact |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">justifies your reason for writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a vague personal opinion |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">supports itself with facts or other evidence or examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none">an unsupported declaration |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">presents material in a lively, interesting way | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a simple assertion of information with no particular zing or spice |
| A Sample Good Thesis: | A Sample Weak Thesis: |
| Important studies show that kids today are watching too much television. | I will show in this essay that kids are watching too much television. |

Sample Outline:

I. Thesis: Answer the EQ

II. Overview of the Topic

II. Section 1: First Point of Thesis

- A. Supporting evidence with analysis
- B. Supporting evidence with analysis
- C. Supporting evidence with analysis

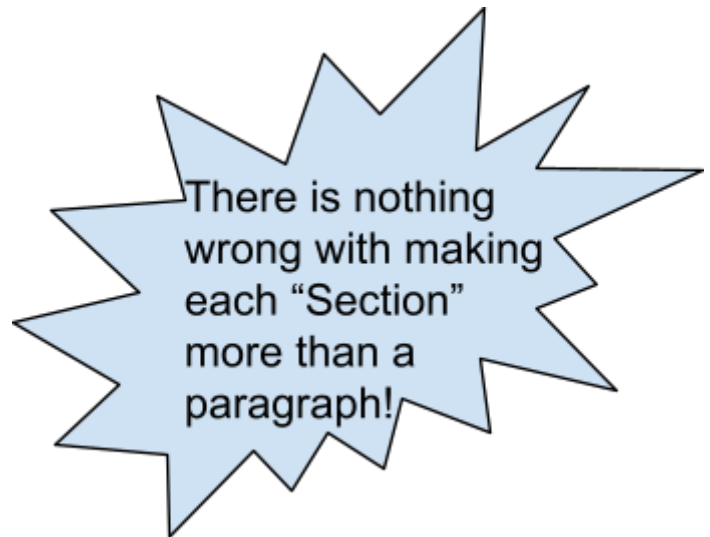
III. Section 2: Second Point of Thesis

- A. Supporting evidence with analysis
- B. Supporting evidence with analysis
- C. Supporting evidence with analysis

IV. Section 3: Third Point of Thesis

- A. Supporting evidence with analysis
- B. Supporting evidence with analysis
- C. Supporting evidence with analysis

V. Conclusion



MLA Bibliography

Book: Last name of author, First name. *Title*. Location: Publishing Company, Year Published. Print.

Website:

Last name of author, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Website*. Web sponsors, Date of last update. Web. Date you accessed the site.