

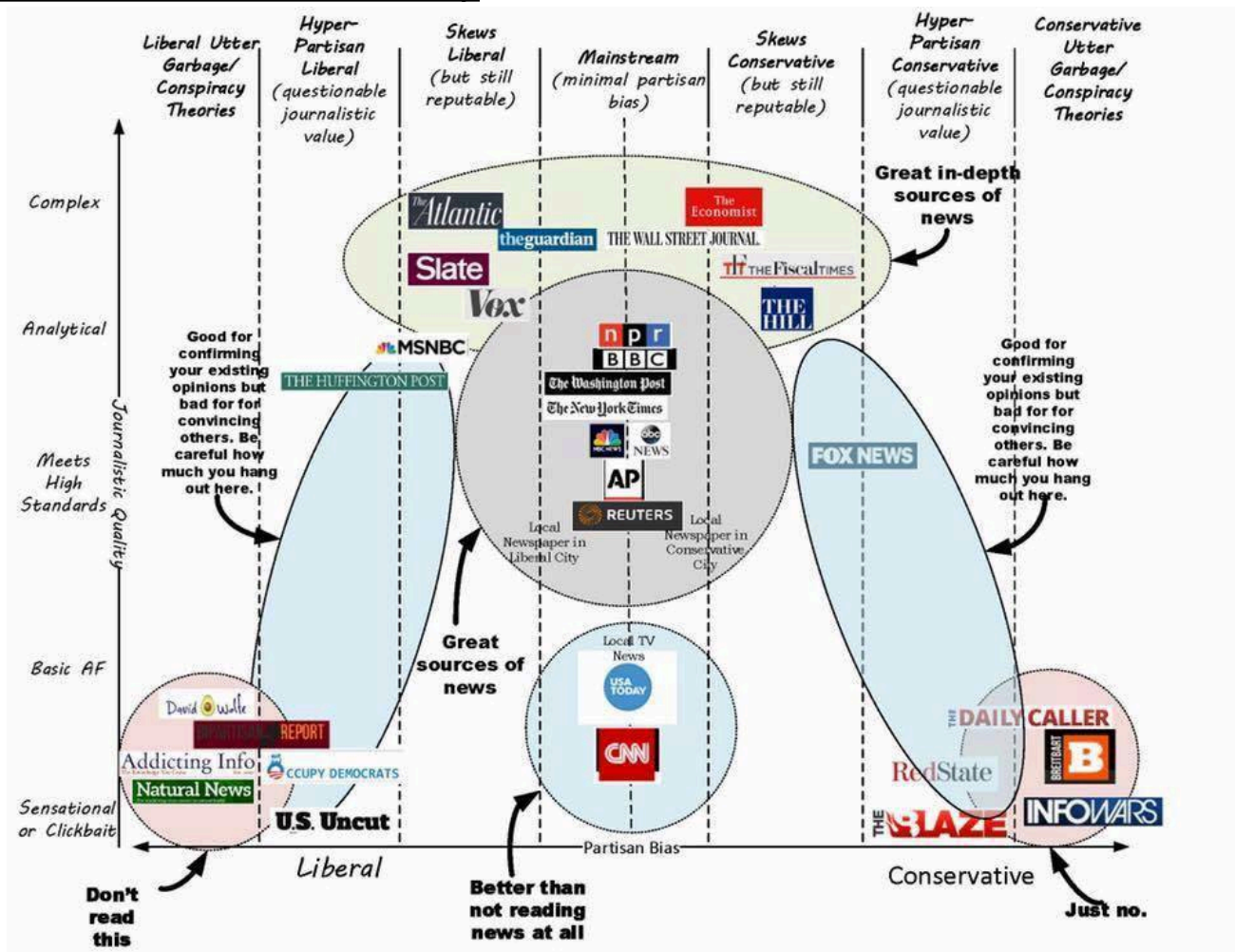
Research Notes and Analysis of Sources

Directions:

1. Read up on the **historical context** of your chosen issue. Google “history of (gun control) debate” or something similar. Tertiary sources are okay here. Wikipedia may have some good entries for certain issues. Create a basic rough timeline or a bulleted list of important events/developments. The historical context of your topic might be something that factors into your argument.
2. Find **CREDIBLE** (yet ideologically biased!) sources and analyze their perspectives using the following note-taking template or another format that works for you.
3. You should choose at least 4 sources that resonate with your perspective and 4 sources that challenge it. **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESEARCH MORE THAN THESE SOURCES!** (You will only be graded on the research notes for 8).
4. After researching, you should write two thesis statements: one on each side of your issue. These statements should be ideologically biased, concise, and eloquently stated. Consider using concessive structures in these thesis statements.

RESEARCH NOTES AND THESIS STATEMENTS DUE TUESDAY, November 16th

Useful Chart on Media Bias and Credibility:



[PLEASE WATCH THIS VIDEO ON EVALUATING SOURCES FOR CREDIBILITY](#)

Suggested Resources:

1. **Policy Organizations (Search based on your topic!)**
 - a. **EXAMPLES**
 - Abortion
 - Pro-life Family Research Council <https://www.frc.org/>
 - Prochoice NARAL <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/laws-policy/>
 - Environment/Energy
 - Energy Policy Institute: <https://www.energyandpolicy.org/about/>
 - Environmental Law and Policy Center: <http://elpc.org/>
2. **Op-ed columns of widely-read newspapers and magazines**
 - a. **EXAMPLES**
 - <http://www.realclearpolitics.com>
 - <http://bostonglobe.com/opinion>
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/section/opinion>
 - <https://www.wsj.com/news/opinion>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions>
3. **Politicians (speeches and writings) and Political Parties**
 - a. **EXAMPLES**
 - i. Obama, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, governors, Senators, Congressmen, etc...
 - b. **Party Platforms**
 - i. [Republican Party Platform](#)
 - ii. [Democratic Party Platform](#)
 - iii. [Libertarian Party Platform](#)
 - iv. [Green Party Platform](#)
4. **Political Pundits and Journalists (radio, video, podcast)**
 - a. **EXAMPLES**
 - Conservative: [Here is a list of 25 conservative voices from a variety of media](#)
 - Liberal: [Here is a list of 25 liberal voices from a variety of media](#)
5. **Government Agencies and Research Institutions**
 - a. **EXAMPLES**
 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://stats.bls.gov/>
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/justsys.cfm>
 - Here is a searchable database of federal agencies: <https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies>
6. **University researchers or organizations:**
 - a. Google a reputable university, search for the departments that most pertain to your topic. See if there are any professors or organizations within the department that are doing research and policy work. Go down the rabbit hole. It's okay to even contact experts in the field to ask for recommendations. I have had students get replies and lots of good tips this way!
 - b. **EXAMPLES:**
 - <http://cjpp.law.harvard.edu/the-technology-of-policing>
 - <http://www.law.stanford.edu/organizations/clinics/immigrants-rights-clinic>
7. **TED TALKS and other credible internet videos**
 - a. TED is searchable by theme: ted.com

Use the space below to summarize the historical context of your issue. Use a timeline, a bulleted list, or any other graphic organization to represent main events and developments in the history of your issue. As your research, think about ways that relating historical information about your issue may assist you in building your argument. What might your audience need to know about the history?

Copy and paste link(s) to your sources for this part:

SUPPORTING SOURCES	Source #1	Source #2
Name of author and affiliated organization		
Link to source		
What is the source's bias? What is the thesis or perspective of the source? Do they offer a solution or a resolution?		
What points do they make to support their claims? (Include any quotes that support your claim that you might use in your own argument.) How might this be useful for your project?		

SUPPORTING SOURCES	Source #3	Source #4
Name of author and affiliated organization		
Link to source		
What is the source's bias? What is the thesis or perspective of the source? Do they offer a solution or a resolution?		
What points do they make to support their claims? (Include any quotes that support your claim that you might use in your own argument.) How might this be useful for your project?		

OPPOSING SOURCES	Source #1	Source #2
Name of author and affiliated organization		
Link to source		
What is the source's bias? What is the thesis or perspective of the source?		
What points do they make to support their claims?		
What evidence can you use to refute their claims?		

OPPOSING SOURCES	Source #3	Source #4
Name of author and affiliated organization		
Link to source		
What is the source's bias? What is the thesis or perspective of the source?		
What points do they make to support their claims?		
What evidence can you use to refute their claims?		

WRITE YOUR TWO THESIS STATEMENTS BELOW!!!

PRO or YES or Supporting thesis:

CON or NO or Opposing thesis:

Empathy Interview Guidelines:

At least one of your research sources must be a personal interview with a human being that holds a different view than you do (from the “other” side of the ideological spectrum). Perhaps you sit down with a family member, a classmate, or another community member in order to discover where their thinking on the topic comes from. If you are in the middle on your issue, you should do two interviews. Everyone is HIGHLY encouraged to do multiple interviews with both sides of the aisle.

- Establish a set of questions in advance. Ask follow up questions based on how they answer. (It’s okay if you stray from your project topic a bit!)
- Try to solicit through conversation the type of personal narrative that you wrote for Part 1. How would your interview subject answer the question, “Where do your personal beliefs on this topic come from?”
- Start with questions that get at why they are conservative/liberal and then narrow it down to their views on your personal topic.
- Audio record the interview with the permission of your subject. If they are not comfortable with that, take good notes! (Good journalists do both.)
- Listen respectfully with genuine curiosity. Do not argue with your interview subject. The point of the interview is to listen for understanding.
- Send a thank you note or follow-up email after the interview!