English IV Academic

November/December 2016

**Synthesis Essay: Argumentation**

**CCSS:**

* **Reading (6)** Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text .
* **Reading (7)** Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media.
* **Writing (1)** Write arguments to support claim…using valid reasoning and relevant/sufficient evidence.
* **Writing (8)** Gather relevant information from multiple sources…and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Over the past weeks you have spent time carefully reading and annotating a variety of informational texts. You will now put your critical reading and writing skills to use by writing a synthesis essay in which you use the information you have gathered from these texts to support an argument.

Your essay will center on a clear and defensible response to the following question:

**Should state governments regulate the use of cell phones while driving?**

Your thesis (your position on the topic) must be clearly expressed in the first paragraph of your essay. The information from the source texts will be used to support your argument.

The information from the texts (including the five provided to you and the one you found on your own) will be used in the following ways:

* Direct quotation (at least one each from a minimum of four different sources).
* Paraphrase
* Summary

Your essay must

* be thesis driven
* be at least 700 words in length
* include at least four direct quotations , at least one each from four different sources
* be formatted according to MLA guidelines (see example on class website):
  + typed and double-spaced
  + 12 point Times New Roman font
  + 1 inch margins
  + running header
  + MLA parenthetical citations
  + A separate MLA formatted “Works Cited” page

**Requirements**

* An annotated bibliography of six sources
* An outline of your synthesis essay
* A first draft, including “Works Cited”
* A peer edit (will be done in class on Monday, December 5)
* A final draft, including “Works Cited”

**Due Dates**

* Annotated bibliography: Friday, November 17
* Outline: Monday, November 28
* First draft: Monday, December 5

\*\***Each of the above should be created as a Google document and shared with me in “real time” – from beginning to end. I will provide feedback throughout the entire process.**

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**Sources: Here are the sources provided to you. You must add the source that you located independently to both the annotated bibliography and the “Works Cited” page.**

Austin, Michael. "Texting While Driving: How Dangerous Is it?" *Car and Driver*, June 2009, pp. 20-21.

Mistler, Steve. "Maine Law Would Ban Cellphones While Driving." *Portland Press Herald*, 27 Feb. 2015, www.pressherald.com/2015/02/07/maine-lawmakers-take-anothr-shot-at-strengthening-distracted-driving-law.

"New Data from Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Provides Insight into Cell Phone Use and Driving Distraction." Virginia Technical Institute, 27 July 2009, httP://www.vtti.vt.edu/PDF/7-22-09-Press\_Release\_Cell\_phones\_and\_Driver\_Distraction.pdf.

"Stopping Distance." *Driver Guide*, Missouri Department of Revenue, 2015, dor.mo.gov/forms/Driver\_Guide\_Chapter8.pdf.

Thomas, Ken. "Study: Distractions Cause Most Classes." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 21 Apr. 2006, p. 17.