**SIRS Researcher®**

***Leading Issues***



# **Outline of the Leading Issues Mini-Research Process**

## Step 1: Developing basic knowledge: Read the topic summary to understand the basics and importance of the leading issue.

***Step 2:*** Understanding differences of opinion: Read the viewpoint summaries and the hyperlinked articles to understand where the points of difference on the leading issue reside…

1. Select at least 2 articles that *support* the issue
2. Save these articles for use in the following steps
3. Open the articles that you saved for deeper reading and analysis
4. Open a blank word processing document. This will become your **Draft Summary**.
5. Critically read each article and copy and paste the SIRS citation and any significant ideas, opinions, and facts from each article into the blank *Draft Summary* (try to keep this section to 1-2 pages)
6. Select at least 2 articles that *oppose* the issue
7. Copy and paste citations and significant ideas, opinions, and facts into the *Draft Summary*
8. Save and print the *Draft Summary* (use a file name that includes the issue language)
9. Show the *Draft Summary* to your teacher for a signature and approval of your research analysis of the 4 articles

**Step 3:**Separating Fact from Opinion: Use the articles you selected for the *Draft Summary* and find information that answers the following questions to clarify the competing viewpoints on the issue:

* Provide 2 examples of people or groups *supporting the issue*
* List the reasons they are proposing in favor of the issue
* Of the reasons provided, identify at least 2 facts and 2 opinions
  1. Use your *Draft Summary* file to find sentences and paragraphs that provide information that answers the questions above. Use shades of **light green** to change the **color** of the text that provides the best examples of significant information
  2. Repeat Step 3 to find and **highlight** information that answers the questions for the *different perspectives*. Use shades of **light red** to mark this text.

***Step 4:*** Making up your own mind: Using the facts and opinions from the *Draft Summary*, write an original and reasoned opinion that *supports* **or** *opposes* the issue being researched. Your reasoned opinion should be about 150 words.

1. Use the report model provided below
2. Use your *Draft Summary* to help organize your writing and ideas
3. Integrate the answers to the **essential questions** included in Step 4 in your original and reasoned opinion
4. Copy and paste excerpts and citations from the *Draft Summary* to your **final written report**, using the model format provided on the next page

**Summary of Reasoned Opinion**

Write approximately 150 words answering the essential questions provided in Step 4.

***Leading Issues* Final Written Report Template**

Who **supports** this position and why?

Your task is to summarize and cite at least 2 of the resources you provided in Step 2 that SUPPORT your Reasoned Opinion.

**Copy/Paste SUPPORT Citation #1:**

**Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:**

**Most Significant Fact**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Most Significant Opinion**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Copy/ Paste SUPPORT Citation #2:**

**Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:**

**Most Significant Fact**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Most Significant Opinion**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

Who **opposes** this position and why?

Your task is to Summarize and cite at least 2 of the resources you provided in Step 2 that OPPOSE your Reasoned Opinion.

**Copy/Paste OPPOSITION Citation #1:**

**Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:**

**Most Significant Fact**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Most Significant Opinion**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Copy/ Paste OPPOSITION Citation #2:**

**Copy/paste only significant information from the Draft Summary here:**

**Most Significant Fact**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)

**Most Significant Opinion**: (copy and paste from the Draft Summary)