**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Howe/Fall 2015**

**English I Global Issues Research Project**

**Project Overview**

You will be conducting a research project with a partner on a **global issue** related to one of the works of literature we read this semester. You will need to construct an argument about your particular topic with three reasons to support your claim. There will be two portions to this assignment: a research portion and a presentation portion. Each of these will count as major assignment grades.

**Constructing Your Argument**

The purpose of an **argument** is to convince an audience to think a certain way or to take a particular action. Choose a topic you have clearly defined opinions about and research both sides of the issue for the most thoroughly convincing **argument**.

For example, *gun violence* is a **topic**, whereas *gun restrictions need to be more strictly enforced* is an **argument**.

Your argument should be organized as follows:

1. Introduction (Hook, background information, thesis)
2. Reason #1 (with supporting details)
3. Reason #2 (with supporting details)
4. Reason #3 (with supporting details)
5. Rebuttal/Counterclaim (What are the objections to your argument?)
6. Conclusion (Restated opinion, powerful ending statement)

**Research Portion**

Once you choose your topic, you will be using a program called Noodletools to document your research. Although you are working with a partner on this project, each of you will be conducting separate research. You are responsible for making 10 note cards from at least three sources, while also filling out the “Works Consulted” form.

**Presentation Portion**

After you have completed your research, you and your partner will begin working on a Prezi. This is an online presentation tool that will visually aid your presentation to the class. You will be assessed on the creativity and content of your Prezi, along with your speech presentation.

**Research Guiding Questions**

Below are some guiding questions that will help you conduct your research:

1. What is your topic? How is it defined?
2. What is its history in the United States?
3. Are there any statistics available on your topic?
4. What kind of debate is there about your topic?
5. What are some example stories/testimonials of your topic? (search for newspaper or magazine articles)
6. What does your topic look like in other countries (outside the US)?
7. What kinds of solutions are being offered on your topic?

**Research Topics**

Below are just some of the global issues connected to each of our works of literature we studied this semester. You may choose one of the following global issues on which to conduct your research, but it is perfectly acceptable to choose a topic not listed below.

\***Remember, these are topics; your job is to turn them into arguments**.

***To Kill a Mockingbird***

* Racism/Prejudice/Discrimination
* Flaws in Educational System
* Flaws in Justice System
* Domestic Violence
* Right of Privacy
* Standardized testing
* Unemployment rates

***A Raisin in the Sun***

* Women’s equality/women’s rights/feminism
* Segregation
* Abortion
* Wealth Divide
* Family Planning

***Romeo and Juliet***

* Teen suicide
* Gang violence
* Arranged marriages
* Drug abuse
* Hate crimes

**“The Most Dangerous Game”**

* Hunting Ethics
* Animal Rights
* Capital Punishment

**“The Scholarship Jacket”**

* Immigration Policy
* Treatment/Rights of Immigrants
* Discrimination in schools

**“The Scarlet Ibis”**

* (Rights of) Disabled/Handicapped individuals
* Genetic disorders

**“The Cask of Amontillado”**

* Mental illness