**Persuasive Speech, Step One: Research**

Over the last three weeks, we have examined how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as figurative language to enhance the rhetoric of his argument. For your next few assignments, you will use those rhetorical devices, as well as the Toulmin Argument Formula to write a persuasive speech.

Your first step will be to decide on and research a topic. I have provided a list of topics. For this assignment, please stick to one of the topics on the list. You may argue either side of the issue.

Here are your choices:

* Are pitbulls a vicious breed?
* Why police should not chase a car.
* Should flag burning as a form of protest be prohibited?
* More recycling should be encouraged.
* The minimum wage should/should not be increased.
* High school students should be required to complete community service hours to graduate.
* High school athletes should be required to maintain a C in every class to play sports.
* All students should be required to take art or music classes every year.
* All schools should have recess, no matter what grade.
* Hydraulic fracturing should be banned.
* Assisted suicide be legal for people who suffer from terminal illnesses.
* Parents should not spank their children.
* Disney cartoons are often sexist.
* Pennies should be eliminated.
* Genetically modified foods (GMOs) are not dangerous.
* We should put new faces on our paper money.
* People who receive government aid should be drug tested regularly.
* The federal government should drastically increase Amtrak funding.
* Stem cell researchers should be able to use cells from aborted babies to help cure diseases.
* A foreign language should be taught to all elementary school students.
* The government should give students a cash award for making the honor roll.
* All students should be required to serve two years in the military (part-time) or serve two years in a public service program after high school graduation.
* Abraham Lincoln was the best president.
* Federal funding for NPR and PBS should be increased.
* Voting should be required for every citizen over 18.
* Socialism and capitalism can exist together.
* Polygamy should be legal.
* Tipping in restaurants should be banned.

Your next step is to find six (6) ***separate*** credible sources that give you facts about your chosen topic. When evaluating sources, remember the CRAAP method. Is your source:

* **Current?** Check the publication date. Is the information up to date?
* **Relevant?** Does the article discuss your topic, or does it just mention it in passing?
* **Authoritative?** Is the person who wrote the article qualified to discuss the topic? Is he or she an expert? Do they cite their sources, and are those sources credible?
* **Accurate?** Can the information on the site be verified by other credible sources? Does the author give opinions rather than facts?
* **Purposeful?** Is the purpose of the site to inform, or are they trying to persuade? Does the author or organization have an obvious bias? Are they trying to sell you something? If the article is by an organization, have you researched the organization?

**Remember, .gov and .edu sites are the most credible, generally; .org sometimes; and .com, .net, and others should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.**

Once you have found six credible sources complete the worksheet below:

Source One:

Author(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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