



## Whole Class Discussion Assignment: Controversial Issues

### Objective:

- Political Science students, after reading about controversial issues in the textbook and on the Internet, will agree or disagree with one of the issues, and post their opinions and stances in the Discussion Board.

**Points possible:** 15

**Due date:** Sept. 19 at 11:55 p.m. (Pacific time)

### Steps:

1. Choose one of the following controversial issues to write about in the Discussion Board: abortion, anti-smoking laws, gun control, legalizing marijuana, mandatory prayers in public schools, mandatory school uniforms in public schools, Three-Strikes law.
2. Research your chosen issue by reading about it in your textbook and on the Internet. Analyze and evaluate the issue.
3. Write a one-page paper (12 points), which shall include the following:
  - a. Are you in favor or opposed to the issue? Why?
  - b. Defend your stance with factual information. Cite your sources.
  - c. Which groups and/or political parties support your stance? Which groups oppose your stance?
  - d. Describe a personal experience that either you, someone you know, or someone else you know of or read about had with the issue. Make sure this experience supports your stance. You don't have to name names.

You should first write your posting in a word processing program like Microsoft Word. That way, you can spell-check, grammar-check and save your work to your computer. Then you can copy the text and paste it into Blackboard.

4. Go to the Discussion Board. In the forum "Controversial issues", click Create New Thread. In the subject field, type the name of the issue, then paste your paper into the text field. When done, click Submit.
5. Read your classmates' posts. Don't be surprised to see questions regarding this discussion appear on your exam.
6. For the final 3 points of the assignment, find a post that you disagree with, and refute it in **three sentences or more**. In your rebuttal, acknowledge the person's opinion, then respectfully refute with factual information. Example: "Gabe, you have a valid point when you say that abortion should be illegal. However, I disagree because . . ."
7. For the assignment, you will be assessed on whether you included all of the elements in steps 3 and 6 above.