

National Conversations Log

DIRECTIONS: Watch the news and/or read newspapers for issues that arise during the summer from each of the following categories:

- a) politics;**
- b) culture** (the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group);
- c) your choice of ONE of the following areas--business/economics; education; environment; technology; or health.**

You should have 3 total issue logs: **1 for politics, 1 for culture, and 1 for an area under choice C.** Trace the development of what's happening with the area during the summer and bring the completed handout for each category. You must have **3 different sources** for each category. Plan on finding details from throughout the summer – June, July, and August—and take notes using the template below. **DO NOT** print articles. You will likely have several pages of evidence for each log. Some issues may fall under multiple categories; choose the category that fits best.

Be sure that you focus on **issues** that span the length of summer, not singular incidents. For example, a singular incident would be the March for our Lives event. The underlying issue, however, would be gun control and school safety. There will be multiple incidents that occur within the overarching issue.

Category for this log: Circle the area addressed:

Politics; Culture; Business/Economics; Education; Environmental; Technology; Health

Compiled Bulleted Evidence/Details from Your Sources (3 sources per category – you may need additional pages to complete this portion of the assignment)

At the end of summer, discuss in a small paragraph the implications/effects of the above details. Basically, what has been the “national conversation” for this area? This is a discussion of argument, subtext, and nuance

Write a properly formatted MLA works cited for your sources; you should use the 8th edition format of MLA. The Purdue OWL site is a helpful resource: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> You should have a minimum of three sources for the content in the bulleted section of this form.

Create or compile 1-3 visual arguments that best capture the “national conversation” for this category. Remember that if you are “borrowing” a visual, then you will need to add a properly documented MLA entry for the source(s) you used. That means you will have more than three sources in your works cited.

Write a short explanation (3+ sentences) of how your visual argument (the previous box) illustrates your analysis of this log’s national argument (bottom box on page 1).