

## ESP Seminar Summer Assignment

Questions: Email [aferrari@rivercityscience.org](mailto:aferrari@rivercityscience.org)

1. Choose a topic that interests you – drones, robots, women’s issues, LGBT – anything! Then, complete the following steps:

A. **Q: Question and Explore:** Create a question based on the topic, such as, ‘Is it ethical for police to use drones,’ or, ‘Is the #MeToo movement going to have an impact on 2018 elections,’ etc. BEFORE YOU RESEARCH – write down your current answer to the question you formed AND email me to get your question approved! (See the back for more topic ideas!)

B. **U: Understand and Analyze Arguments:** Find 3 sources that help answer and form a new opinion on your question in different ways. One of the sources must be an alternative form of media – such as a piece of artwork, a movie/tv series, a youtube video, primary source, live news, etc. The other 2 can be articles, websites, studies, whatever you can find!

C. **E: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives:** Evaluate each of your sources in 2 ways. One, how credible is this source (essentially, who wrote/made it and why should you trust it) and two, what perspective(s) does this source bring to the topic? A perspective is defined as ‘a point of view that is conveyed through an argument.’

D. **S: Synthesize Ideas:** Using all three of the sources you found, synthesize and form an answer to the question you were originally answering. Explain how ALL 3 sources compare and contrast (or are connected/different) to each other to help shape your new found opinion on the topic.

E. **T: Team, Transform, and Transmit:** Combine all of this information into a powerpoint presentation that you will present to the class the first week of school. Be sure to include information of the whole process you went through: Forming the question, original answer, how you did your research, the sources you found, why they are credible and the perspectives they contributed, what those sources said, and how those sources worked together to form your new answer to the question.

2. Include information on this process – was this easy, medium, hard for you? Where did you struggle and where did you not? And any other thoughts you had during the process!

**\*Do NOT think of this as writing a research paper – that is not what this is! It is you evaluating and bringing together the main points of various sources to explain your new found opinion on the question you formed in a powerpoint presentation!**

## Other Topic Ideas!

### **Cultural and Social:**

Americans vs other cultures, Millennials vs other generations, Netflix and Youtube generation and school work, etc

### **Artistic and Philosophical:**

Pop art vs established artists, importance of art to a society, what do modern philosophers say about existence, etc

### **Ethical:**

Should society require a highschool diploma or GED, should criminals lose the right to vote, is it okay to eat less sentient animals, such as fish?

### **Futuristic:**

What will homes look like in 20 years, will computers and robots replace jobs, etc

### **Political and Historical:**

What are the odds of President Trump being reelected, historically how many people show up to vote in off-year elections, what is the legacy of President Obama, etc

### **Environmental:**

What is the 'environmental footprint' of an American, what is the current evidence for Global Warming, etc

### **Economic:**

The gender-pay gap, effect of the 'Trump Tax Cuts' on the American economy, what is happening as women work outside of the home more, etc

### **Scientific:**

How are we currently trying to cure cancer, when will we be ready to send a manned mission to Mars, how did the Zika virus affect pregnant women, etc