

Taking Sides Analysis and Research

Choose a topic from Rourke, *Taking Sides*. Students may choose the same topic as that used for their in-class debate/presentation.

1. Start with some **background** (history, and recent events) and **justification** (i.e.: Why is this important? Why is there a controversy and/or sharp disagreement over the issue? What can be learned and generalized from looking at this?) for your topic. Consider: Who has a particular stake in this issue, in terms of ideology, partisanship, pragmatic self-interest, etc. Who tends to support one side or the other, and why?
2. Present a **detailed analysis of the two sides** of an issue from the text; and include further areas of study, utilizing multiple sources (books, articles, websites) that deal with the subject (and that present empirical evidence and arguments).
3. Utilizing your additional sources, further explicate each side of the issue. As all of the essays in *Taking Sides* are all at least a year or two old, **include any new developments that need to be discussed**, as well as **any evidence that has recently emerged** to support one side or the other.

Include the approaches, constructs and theories from D'Anieri, *International Politics: Power and Purpose*. In particular, one might utilize **the liberal vs. realist approaches/theories** (or alternative approaches such as **economic structuralism, constructivism, feminism, environmentalism**, etc.); and **levels of analysis**, as well as other areas of relevance, such as globalization, nationalism, etc.

4. After seriously addressing the topic, **include your own opinion** regarding the issue, and explain why you have taken that position. You may also **critique the essays in the book** (but you must also utilize outside sources that go beyond what is in the book).

5. Finally, include some **prescription** (what you think should happen regarding this issue) and some **prediction** (what you think will happen regarding this issue). You might want to present several **possible scenarios** of how things might play out.

Students may choose a topic not presented in the *Taking Sides* text, but **must** first discuss this with the instructor for approval.

All papers must be **typed, double spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman**. Please pay attention to proper grammar, spelling and sentence structure. (It is highly recommended that students take advantage of the Writing Center.

All papers **must have proper citation, including endnotes or footnotes**. This includes full and proper citation for internet sources. (Check out Easybib.com)

The instructor is quite willing to meet with students to discuss their topics beforehand. But please **don't wait until the last minute!**

The instructor is quite willing examine rough drafts of papers **before the due date** (again, don't wait until the last minute!). Please make sure that such rough drafts do not include egregious spelling, grammar or typing errors.