

Current Events Think Tank Brief



Directions: You and your group members represent a “think tank,” or a policy group interested in pushing forward a political agenda. Since this is your first meeting, you will need to develop a **name** and **slogan** that epitomize your values. Choose wisely, this will be your think tank for the rest of the semester.

Next, answer the following question to guide your analysis of the issue and house your research. Then, discuss the issue in your groups, and write a short brief describing your group’s official position on the issue. Provide analysis of the sources given and found and clearly articulate where you stand and why. You will turn in one sheet per group.

Your Think Tank is called _____

Slogan _____

Group Members _____, _____,

_____, _____.

Today’s issue is: _____

1. **Identify** the problem and policy under being debated? (Give a basic synopsis of what’s going on.)

2. **Research** the issue and outline the different positions. Provide textual or visual evidence to defend your claims.

Left (liberal, mostly Democrats)	Right (conservative, mostly Republicans)
What is the moderate position?	

3. **Discuss** the issue and the different sides in depth. Decide where each of you began and ended the discussion.

Group Member Name	Entering with this position	Exiting with this position

4. **Write** your brief below. This is a research/evidence-based MEL-Con paragraph (ask if you still don't know what this is) representing the consensus of your group on the issue. Essentially, you are now writing a position that represents your think tank as a whole and will provide the basis for any lobbying or fundraising you do around the issue. **Note:** This paragraph should represent a group effort and not be the work of one individual author. Put your minds together and craft a respectable public statement for your organization. That being said, please have the person(s) with the neatest penmanship write out your brief each time.
