**How much power should the federal government have over its citizens?**

The question has been debated since the United States was created: just how powerful should our national government be? Is there a clear line to determine what the government’s business is, and what is not? We will attempt to answer this question through a careful examination of several key issues facing society today.

**Procedure:**

1. You will split up into groups of your own choice. **HOWEVER, BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A GROUP GRADE, AND ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE SAME MARK. CHOOSE YOUR PARTNERS WISELY.**
2. Choose a topic that sounds interesting to you. Your group should be in agreement. Please choose several topics that sound appealing, as we will be drawing numbers to determine the order in which you will choose your topics.
3. After you have chosen a topic (approved by MdeO), you will research your issue. You will then answer the following questions (may be discussed as a group: turn in **one typed group copy** of questions a-d. **EACH member will do f and g ON THEIR OWN** and turn it in):
	1. What are the main arguments surrounding your issue? List several pros and cons.

 As a group, identify the five STRONGEST arguments both IN FAVOR of your issue, and AGAINST it. This must be checked off by MdeO before you start your visual aid.

* 1. Are there any specific advocacy groups that are working on either side of this issue? List as many as you find.
	2. What laws or legislation has the government passed in regards to this issue? In other words, how is this issue currently being handled by the government?
	3. From what you know, what are the problems you can see surrounding how the government is currently handling this situation? For example, are there issues or problems that could be fixed with more or less government intervention?
	4. Create a power point that poses the topic in the form of a question (to be debated later) a brief introduction of the topic, three images presenting opposing sides surrounding the issue, and pros and cons surrounding the issue.

**Individual Work:**

* 1. Choose one article that relates to your topic. Print it out and summarize the article in one to two paragraphs.
	2. In YOUR OPINION, what should the government do in regards to this situation? EXPLAIN. This should be a nice, full, complete answer.

Your group will be responsible for a short presentation explaining your topic and the issues surrounding it.

**Grading:**This project will be worth fifty points. You will be graded on thorough coverage of your topic, complete answers/research, quality and thoughtfulness in your visual aid, and the effectiveness of your group. **FAILING TO WORK EFFECTIVELY AS A GROUP WITH LITTLE SUPERVISION WILL RESULT IN A POOR GRADE.** All group members **must** participate in the entire process: research, creating the visual aid, and your presentation. You will also be given a separate grade for the debate we will participate in later. **Regardless of when a group is presenting, all work is due for every group on the due date.**

**Topics to be addressed:**
Should it be the job of the United States government to control:

**-marijuana laws:** should marijuana be legalized and regulated? Medicinal? Recreational?

**-gay marriage:** should it be legalized?

**-Abortion:** Does a woman have the right to terminate a pregnancy? Does the father have any rights?

**-a dying person’s right to end their life OR a spouse’s right to end life support:** should you be able to get a doctor to end your life? Should a spouse have the right to end life support?

**-sex education in schools (including handing out condoms at school):** should schools be the ones that teach students about sex? Would handing out condoms at school encourage safe sex, or simply promote promiscuous behavior?

**-Dress Codes at school:** should students be able to wear whatever they want to school? Is clothing a distraction or an expression of someone? Should uniforms be required?

**-Censorship:** should television and radio stations have to edit their content (i.e., language and violence) all the time? Some of the time? Should pornography be allowed, or is it a dangerous practice?

**- Obesity:** Is it the job of schools to tell students what they can or cannot eat? With nationalized healthcare should the government take a harsher stance against obesity?

**- Drinking age of young adults:** Is it fair for the government to determine when an individual is responsible to drink?

**-Genetic engineering:** should couples be allowed to choose the sex of their babies? Should they be allowed to pre-determine their physical characteristics?

**-Gambling:** should the government be able to control what you do with your money?

**-Government Surveillance:** Should Americans give up their right to privacy to keep the nation safe from terrorism?

**-Immigration:** Should the United States have stricter laws for immigration or are the laws too strict causing the illegal immigration problem? Should the United States end birthright citizenship?