Main Points Papers (4 @ 20 points each)

You will complete a Main Points Paper for each topic by reading about the topics on ProCon.org. The goal of this assignment is for students to review important points relevant to both sides of the issue. Pick out the points that you feel are the most important and relevant to the topic. You must state and analyze the main points of each section on ProCon.org: Background, Pro, and Con.

Main Points and Point Analysis Explanation:
- Main point – State the point in quotations or paraphrase the point. Main point must be stated in a complete sentence – no isolated fragments or phrases.
- Analysis of main point – Explain why you chose this as a main point. You may (but are not required to) answer one or more of the questions below in your explanation. These questions are just a starting point to get you thinking.
  - Does it summarize an important argument for/against the topic?
  - Is it a good example?
  - Is it an idea you agree with/disagree with/are not sure you believe?
  - Does it resonate with you personally (such as remind you of something you’ve personally seen or experienced)?
  - Does it conflict with your personal experience?

Technical Requirements for Main Points Papers:
- Double spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins
- Submit to the correct link in Assignments. This uploads your paper to Safe Assignment, a plagiarism detection device. See plagiarism warning in syllabus.
- Correct grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc.

Format for Main Points Papers:
Organize each main point and point analysis in bullet point format.

Background (2-4 main points)
- 1st main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)
- 2nd main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)

Pro (5-7 main points)
- 1st main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)
- 2nd main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)
- Keep going for 5-7 main points

Con (5-7 main points)
- 1st main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)
- 2nd main point (must be at least 1 sentence long)
  - Analysis of this point (must be at least 3 sentences long)
- Keep going for 5-7 main points
Grading Point Structure for Main Points Papers (20 pts.)

Students are expected to learn from their mistakes and improve their work throughout the semester. Read grade explanations in Blackboard carefully to prevent future mistakes. AS THE SEMESTER PROGRESSES, MORE POINTS WILL BE REMOVED FOR FAILURE TO CORRECT PREVIOUS MISTAKES AND MEET STATED REQUIREMENTS. AFTER THE SAME MISTAKE IS MADE EACH TIME, THE NUMBER OF POINTS OFF ON ANY SECTION WILL DOUBLE. For example, if on the first main point paper you lost 2 points for grammar and your grammar does not improve for the second main point paper, you will lose 4 points the second time around.

5 points – Technical requirements
- 0 points – Included 2 or more technical requirement errors
- 3 points – Included 1 technical requirement error
- 5 points – Adhered to all technical requirements

5 points – Bullet/sub-bullet point format with headings, double spacing
- 0 points – Did not use bullet/sub-bullet point format (i.e., paragraph format) OR did not use applicable headings: background, pro, con
- 5 points – Used bullet/sub-bullet point format with all applicable headings: background, pro, con

5 points – Number of main points
- 0 points – Missing 2 or more main points in any section (background, pro, con)
- 3 points – Missing 1 main point in any section (background, pro, con)
- 5 points – Contains the correct number of main points

5 points – Substantive analysis
- 0 points – More than 5 analyses either do not contain your reason for choosing the main point OR are less than 3 sentences long
- 3 points – Up to 5 analyses do not contain your reason for choosing the main point OR are less than 3 sentences long
- 5 points – Each analysis explains why you chose the main point AND is at least 3 sentences long