

2008 – 2009 Ninth Grade Assessment Sample Topics

Issues in Law and Justice

- **Adoption / Birth Parent Rights**
- **Adoption – Open vs. Closed**
- Cell Phones and Driving
- Censorship of Books
- Corporate Corruption (Enron, Adelphia, AIG etc.)
- Creationism vs. Evolution
- Death Penalty
- Digital Copyright Laws
- Driving Laws for Teenagers
- Elderly Drivers
- Election Reform
- Gun Control
- Hate Groups and Freedom of Speech
- Homeland Defense
- Importation of Foreign Goods
- Internet Censorship
- Juvenile Justice System
- Megan's Law
- Music Censorship
- Music File Sharing
 - (i.e. Napster and Kazaa)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Funding for Elections
- Reinstating the Military Draft
- Restrictions on Telemarketing
- Slavery Reparations
- Social Security Reform
- Software Piracy
- Illegal immigration – Amnesty?
- Should the Secret Service be able to compile a database of driver's license photographs for national security purposes?
- Eliminating the Jury System in the United States

International Issues

- Detainees at Guantanamo:
- POWs?
- Bioterrorism: American
- Foreign adoption
- Funding for Iraq
- Immigration
- Patriot Act
- Protecting journalists abroad
- Space Station

- Sweatshops
 - US Army – Spread too thin?
 - US as peacekeeper or police
 - War with Iraq – When do we Pull out?
 - American Intervention in North Korea
 - American Intervention in Iran
- American intervention in Afghanistan

Environmental Issues

- Clean Air Rules
- Ecoterrorism
- Environmentally Friendly Cars
- Drilling for Oil in Arctic
- Domestic Drilling
- *National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska*
- **Power Grid Problems:**
 - **Northeast Blackout of 2003**
- Surface Water Pollution
- West Nile Virus
- Alternative Fuel Sources

Local Issues

- **Kids' Castle: Safe? (Arsenic In Wood)**
- Population Growth in Bucks County
- Route 202 Bypass
- Should the state of Pennsylvania sell the state turnpike to a private company?

Educational Issues

- Block Scheduling
- Bus Safety
- Charter Schools
- Day Care in High Schools
- Drug Sniffing Dogs
- Grade Inflation
- Head Start
- Home-schooling
- Homework
- No Child Left Behind Act
- Pesticides in Schools
- Plagiarism
- Religion and schools
- School Start Time
- School Uniforms
- School Violence
- Security Cameras in Schools
- Sex Education

- Standardized Testing
- Student Privacy
- Teacher Testing
- Wired Classrooms
- Year Round Schooling
- Zero Tolerance
- Should parents stay at home to care for young children, even if it means a loss of income and or slowdown in the parent's career?
- **Do students that participate in sports make better students?**
- **Random Drug Tests for students**

Social Issues

- Adoption by Homosexuals
- Animal Cruelty
- Affirmative Action
- Athletes' Salaries
- Child Labor
- Distribution of 700 Billion Bailout
- Should the government intervene with the Automobile industry?
- Distribution of 9-11 Funds
- Female Body Image
- Funding for Stadiums
- Gay Marriage
- Gay Rights
- Mass Media & Sensationalism
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Pete Rose and the Hall of Fame debate
- Barry Bonds or the Place of HGH and Steroids
- Racial Profiling
- Racial Profiling post 9-11
- Racism in the criminal justice system
- Sexual Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
- Steroid Abuse
- Television violence
- Video games and violence
- Violence in sports
- Welfare reform
- Women Athletes

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Health Issues

- Abortion
- Animal Rights
- Attention Deficit and Hyperactive Disorder
- Backpacks
- Children and Prescription Drugs for ADHD, etc.
- **Cell phones and health hazards**
- Cloning
- Drug Abuse
- Drug Use in Athletes
- Euthanasia
- Fad Diets
- *Gene Therapy*
- **Genetically Modified Foods**
- Genetic Screening
- Herbal Supplements
- Medical Malpractice
- Pharmaceutical Costs for Seniors
- Right to Die (Terry Schiavo)
- Smallpox Vaccinations
- **Smoking Advertisements**
- **Smoking Laws**
- Stem Cell Research
- Uninsured for Medical Coverage
- Universal Healthcare