

Before you get started:

1. Please open a blank Google document.
2. Title this document with your last name, grade and today's date. For example, John Smith in grade 9 taking the test today would have the title of Smith.G9.4.3.14
3. At the top of the page, on the left-hand side, please type in the same information as your document title (last name, grade, date)
4. Use the default font and spacing (1.15 spacing, Arial 11-point font); do NOT change the font or spacing.
5. Place this document in the Spring 2014 Writing Assessment folder that was shared with you by Ms. Cassetty.

This is where you will write your essay response to the following prompt. This assignment will be recorded in quarter 4 of your English grade. Please do your best!

Directions: Read the following informational texts and then respond to the prompt below in an essay.

Writing Prompt: Should the government impose stricter gun laws? Why or why not? If Congress passes these proposed laws will the U.S. be a safer place to live? Why or why not?

- *Article 1: The Gun Debate from Junior Scholastic*
LINK:
- *Article 2: Excerpt from The New York Times*
- *Article 3: The Full Truth About the Second Amendment from the Chicago Tribune*

Don't forget to:

- outline the piece before you start
- have a clear thesis
- include an introduction, body, and conclusion to the paper
- have claims, use data, and attempt warrants
- include a counterclaim
- consider your grammar and spelling