Directions: Choose a controversial current events topic to write a 5 to 7 page research paper on, using at least three reliable sources of documentation as suggested in Part 4 of the Writing Matters Handbook. The topic may be local, state, national or international in scope.

LOCAL:
- Take a stand pro or against the releasing of water from Lake Okeechobee by the Water Management District in order to main proper levels in the lake. The against position is that this annual release is destroying the estuaries in the St. Lucie River. What can be done to stop this?
- Take a stand pro or against developing the port in Ft. Pierce in order to create more jobs.

STATE:
- Take a stand pro or against the state’s borrowing money from the federal government in order to provide health care to additional citizens.
- Take a stand pro or against using state funds to improve the Treasure Coast water estuaries. How much should be allocated in the budget if you’re pro?

NATIONAL:
- Take a pro or con stand for or against the National Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) explaining why it is or is not in the best interest of the American citizens.
- Take a stand for or against states authorizing the use of medical marijuana even though the federal laws say that all types of marijuana sales and usage are illegal.
- There has been much recent publicity about President Obama’s second term as president. Take a stand pro or against whether he is a strong leader.

INTERNATIONAL:
- Take a stand for or against using technology to investigate American citizens’ participation in terrorist activities. Does the use of this technology go against our Constitutional rights to privacy?
- Take a pro or con stand for the United States using military force with Syria in the middle east because of the Assad regime’s use of poison gas. Is this in our best “national interests”? Is it the moral thing to do?