Note: This is a two-part assignment. The second part will be revealed to you next class period.

Format: This assignment is to be legibly hand-written in pencil or pen on the reverse side of this sheet.

Content: 1. Choose a genuinely controversial topic that you feel very strongly about, and that you feel you can write about persuasively. “Taboo” subjects are acceptable, because your writing will not be shared with anyone except the instructor. (Try not to be overtly offensive, though!) Wimpy, unclear, or ambiguous topics will be rejected.

2. Write your last name, a comma, and your first name in both the designated spaces, in the format:
   
   Smith, John

3. On the top half of the paper, in a single concise sentence, say what the topic is and state what side of the issue you are on. Do not write any kind of essay on the topic itself. Spelling and grammar count, of course. Example:
   
   I believe that hippogriffs should not be regarded as dangerous creatures.

4. Double-check your statement to ensure that you have followed the instructions. Verify that you have clearly and concisely described the topic, and that your position on that topic is obvious and unambiguous.

5. When you are satisfied with your work, copy the statement to the appropriate space in the bottom half of the paper.

Due date: Be prepared to turn in your form at the beginning of the next class period, on Thursday, January 9. Your instructor will check your work, and will then tear the paper in half, returning the bottom portion to you and keeping the top portion. At that time, you will receive the homework assignment sheet for the second part of the exercise.
Name: ___________________________________

Single sentence identifying your controversial topic and indicating which side of the issue you are on:

Name: ___________________________________

Single sentence identifying your controversial topic and indicating which side of the issue you are on: