Purpose of a Mask Mandate

**If you are reading this article in 2021, chances are you are aware of what a mask mandate is.** *[This is an unnecessary and weak opening. Start with a stronger hook that grabs the reader's attention and clearly establishes the essay's purpose. Consider beginning with a compelling statistic, a relevant anecdote, or a thought-provoking question.]* As a virus has swept the nation for the past two years, people were required to wear a mask at most locations. In my article, I will be discussing the pandemic and how people feel overall about the precautions that came with it. What is the purpose of a mask mandate?

Over the last couple of years, a mask mandate has been reintroduced nationwide, specifically, April 3rd 2020 according to the CDC. When the mask mandate was put into play at this time, all people the aged two years or older were required to wear a facial mask if in public and or within six feet of anyone in contact.

A mask is a covering for the nose and mouth used typically to prevent the spread of infections like a virus or bacteria. A mandate is an order given by some type of superior court that is enforced and meant to be followed and or obeyed. Combining these two definitions, a mask mandate is an enforcement of a mask given by a higher up that absolutely must be followed.

**Though, this is not the first time a mask mandate has hit the nation. The first mask mandate was the influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919.** *[While the 1918 pandemic is relevant, this transition feels abrupt. Smoothly connect the historical context to the current situation by explaining the similarities and differences between the two pandemics and their respective mask mandates.]* Coming from History.com this was a deadly flu outbreak killing up to fifty million people worldwide. To try and stop this spread, governments closed schools and required people to wear masks in public. Comparing this to now, starting in April of 2020 a mask mandate was put in act because of a virus called COVID 19. Schools were closed and people were required to wear masks. Both, similar if not identical situations.

**Some people were all for this idea, and some completely disagreed stating the mandate went against their constitutional rights.** *[This sentence needs more specific examples and evidence. Which constitutional rights were cited? Provide concrete instances of how people expressed their support or opposition to the mandate.]* There are articles stating why masks absolutely should be worn such as Michigan Health summarizing why a mask mandate is necessary and fair for keeping yourself and others safe. Though, there are also articles such as The Conservation explaining why some people cannot wear a mask. Summarizing, a person with a disability such as cerebral palsy who have limited mobility which makes them unable to even put the strings over their ears.

Even today, in November of 2021, you may still see people walking around with masks on, though, they are not required by the CDC anymore, there are still locations such as colleges that require the use of a mask. You will still see this because the pandemic is absolutely still happening. December 11th of 2020, the first vaccine was given. This vaccine was meant to help the side effects if you did contract the virus and hopefully ultimately protect from getting the virus. Some believe masks are still important to wear to prevent breakthrough cases, especially if you are not wanting and or comfortable with getting the vaccine.

**Starting with What the science says about lifting mask mandates the CDC stopped the mask mandate rule, but only under certain conditions.** *[This sentence is grammatically awkward and unclear. Revise for clarity and conciseness. Clearly state the CDC's conditions for lifting the mask mandate.]* They announced that fully vaccinated individuals did not have to wear a mask, but that puts Erin Perkins, owner of a shop in New Hampshire in an uncomfortable position. This leaves her having to trust each person who walks in her shop without a mask is fully vaccinated which Erin thought was a major issue regarding her safety and everyone else's as well.

Overall, the article “What the science says about lifting mask mandates,” states the evidence is clear masks cut down on deaths related to covid 19, and as people continue to not wear masks, the infection rates increase. The article also states statistics showing masks protect not only people wearing masks, but the people around. This is particularly important regarding Erins concerns, as she does not feel comfortable with unmasked individuals in her shop as the statistics provided shows data proving her case. This is overall a strong article considering the author shows the position Erin is in, fear, which many other businesses can likely relate to.

Erin Perkins point is very valid. If she does not feel comfortable with people in her shop without a mask, then she should be able to enforce masks, which is exactly how it still is today. Overall, if customers do not agree, then they can go elsewhere. Many readers will see this as valid considering many out of most people want the pandemic to end, and as far as we know, wearing a mask or getting vaccinated may possible be the only way. Today, being November of 2021, not often do you see places that still enforced masks, but only encourage.

For my second article [New mask guidelines are about politics and control](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-new-mask-guidelines-polotics-control) this article is about the vaccine that was given to us December 11th, 2020. According to Carlson, individuals were told if they got the vaccine, they would be protected and not have to wear a mask. Also, according to Carlson, the Biden administration eventually went against their word claiming even if you are vaccinated, you will still have to participate in mask wearing. This made many Americans upset, as they were told one thing, and then given another.

The article states “**Millions of Americans who’ve already recovered from COVID don’t need the vaccine. They have natural immunity to the virus,” but people are still being pushed to wear masks and get the vaccine.** *[Address the counterarguments to this claim. Acknowledge that while natural immunity exists, its duration and effectiveness vary, and vaccination provides a more consistent and reliable level of protection.]* This is not a strong point made, as Carlson does not provide any proof of this.

This article continues to push the emotion of fear Americans are gaining, as they feel as if they cannot trust what they are being told. People are starting to feel helpless knowing they are following what they are being told, and then what they were promised is not being presented fairly. People believe this has not turned into helping people, but more of a political control thing. Readers will feel scared and angry by this, as Carlson states what he sees happening.

It is clear that the people are not only scared, they are angry. The quote “like they used to do in America back when it was a free country,” clearly states this claim. People are starting to feel helpless, though there is nothing they can do. As America is a free country, when not being told the full truth from the start, the article summarizes these defeats the purpose of being free, getting the vaccine, wearing masks when fully vaccinated.

For my last article, [“As mother of young children, I beg Cobb to mandate masks,”](https://www.ajc.com/education/get-schooled-blog) This article summarizes the fears people are still having regarding mask wearing, and that they think it is dangerous for their children to have the option to wear masks. Cobb Schooling and one other school were the only schools in Atlanta that gave students the option to wear masks. This article continues to talk about their two-week case numbers saying with the masks being optional, the two-week case numbers nearly tripled. While this is a strong point, by not supplying the reader with the evidence it is harder to believe.

Charis Granger-Mbugua is a mother who is terrified for what might happen. Charis starts by explaining how nice it is to send your kids to schools, knowing they are being cared for and getting the education they need. The excitement the students used to have when going to school, not having a care in the world. This has changed for the perspective of the parents. Charis is sending her children to school with what she says is “feelings of fear, worry, guilt, confusion, frustration, anger, and even impending doom loomed large and undeniable,” and as a mother, this is the last thing Charis is wanting to feel regarding sending her children to a place that is supposed to be a safe spot. Charis is using strong emotion, by providing the information that she is a mother, it is likely other mothers will strongly agree with her after reading this article.

Charis has a son in second grade, and a daughter aged 4. As her son was doing virtual learning the year before, sending him to school in person was okay for her because of the information she had known. Rates were going down, but as time went on, that had not been the case anymore.

Starting with the article “What science says about lifting mask mandates,” trying to find a good in between with making Erin Perkins customers happy, but also making Perkins feel safe may be a challenging thing to do.

As of May thirteenth, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that non vaccinated individuals in New Hampshire did not have to wear a mask. As stated, Perkins was not ready for this change at the time. According to [AARP](https://www.aarp.org) this article claims that while you cannot necessarily force people to wear masks inside of a store, you can enforce that your employees do.

For the situation Perkins is in, the best compromise that could be made would be for her to enforce her employees to wear masks and to trust customers are vaccinated as there is not much else she can to do change the situation. This is because even if her customers are not taking the precautions, making the precautions for herself and her employees is better than not doing anything whatsoever.

In the article “New mask guidelines are about politics and control,” Carlson makes his point very clear that the entirety of the mask mandate and vaccines are about politics and control. He says he was under the impression that if you got your covid vaccine, then you would not have to wear a mask. Following this he states “They got their shots, but the Biden administration has decided to continue to control,” proving his point clear.

It is clear Carlson wants to feel as if he is being treated fair, that if he is being told one thing by the Biden Administration, he wants it to stay that way and not be changed. Considering this, overall, there is not much your average citizen can do besides attempt to make a compromise.

The article claims a study in the New England Journal of Medicine stated and showed “COVID vaccines offer a high level of protection against even the new delta variant of the virus.” Picking up key words from this statement, it says that vaccines offer a *high level of protection* though a high level of protection does not mean it will completely protect a person who gets it.

It is clear a good in between needs to be made with this situation. As stated, because the vaccine is not one hundred percent to protect you from the virus (but likely to) the best thing for an individual to do in this situation is to wear a mask, even if vaccinated. Overall. If you are vaccinated and a store says a mask is not mandatory, then that is up to the person to take the risk. Summarizing, even with a vaccine you are not completely safe, but with the vaccine and wearing a mask, you are as safe as you can get which seems to be the goal.

Lasty, for the article “As mother of young children, I beg Cobb to mandate masks,” mother of two, Charis Granger-Mbugua shared her fear of sending her children to school. At the time, the school Cobb located in Georgia where Charis sends her children, the mask mandate was lifted.

Ultimately as already explained, Charis felt unformattable with sending her children to school without masks. Considering an online option was never stated in the article, she does not have much of a choice but to send her children to school.

Referring to what I stated about the first article, while Perkins could not force customers to wear masks, she can force her employees to. The same goes for Charis, while she cannot do anything about the school dropping the enforcement of mask wearing, she can do her best and have her children to wear masks while at school. Overall, I believe this is the best solution because she would be doing what she can still while keeping her children protected.

**Concluding, some people believe masks should be mandatory, some believe the complete opposite. Overall, there has been no set evidence that we should or should not be wearing masks.** *[This conclusion is weak and contradictory. While acknowledging differing opinions is important, the essay should ultimately take a clear stance on the purpose of mask mandates. Revise the conclusion to provide a more definitive answer to the essay's central question, supported by the evidence presented throughout the paper. ]* Vaccines are optional, but recommended. In the end, as of now, December of 2021, it is an individual's decision of they want to wear masks and or get the vaccine.

**Summary Feedback:**

Your essay addresses an important and relevant topic, and you demonstrate an understanding of the different perspectives surrounding mask mandates. You effectively incorporate personal anecdotes and real-world examples, such as Erin Perkins's situation, to illustrate the challenges and concerns related to mask-wearing. You also attempt to analyze different sources and present opposing viewpoints.

However, the essay needs significant revision to improve its organization, clarity, and argumentation. The introduction lacks a strong hook and clear thesis statement. The body paragraphs often jump between ideas without smooth transitions, and the analysis of sources is superficial. You frequently summarize rather than analyze, and your claims often lack specific evidence and supporting details. The conclusion is weak and fails to provide a definitive answer to the essay's central question. Focus on strengthening your analysis, providing concrete evidence, and developing a more cohesive and persuasive argument.

**Rubric Feedback:**

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| Project Portion | Ideal Criteria | Overall Feedback |
| Introduction | • Engaging • Shows importance of question • Indicates major parts and content | - The introduction needs a stronger hook and a clear thesis statement that directly addresses the essay's central question: What is the purpose of a mask mandate? |
| Background | • Uses credible, neutral sources • Effectively and sufficiently explains essential information • Written objectively in own words • Well organized and focused paragraphs with transitions • Minimal error | - While the background section provides a general overview of the mask mandate, it needs more specific information about the history and implementation of mask mandates. Include key dates, events, and relevant legal frameworks. Also, define the different types of masks and their effectiveness. |
| Analysis | • Smooth transition from background • Summarizes accurately and in own words two opposing answers and one objective answer to the question • Recognizes bias • Reasonable observations about how all sources make their arguments impactful • Well-organized and focused paragraphs with transitions • Minimal error | - The analysis of sources is superficial. Instead of summarizing, focus on analyzing the rhetorical strategies used by the authors to persuade their audiences. Identify and discuss the use of emotional appeals, logical fallacies, credibility markers, and biased language. Provide specific examples from the texts to support your analysis. |
| Response | • Smooth transition from analysis • Incorporates strong points from sources • Draws a reasonable and well-supported conclusion, answering the question • Provides satisfying conclusion to the project • Good transitions between focused paragraphs • Minimal error |  |