What is the purpose of the mask mandate?

When it comes to the mask mandate and Covid-19 everyone has their own opinion. Some people are invested into using every resource possible to prevent the contact of this disease, while others

simply do not believe in this disease or care to prevent it. COVID-19 became the number one topic in the United States since 2020 of last year. This topic is the gossip of every local news station, social media website, radio, talk show, and newspaper article. This disease caused the world to breakout into a panic that led to many different changes. The most noticeable change was the mask mandate.

The mask mandate started as a statewide requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Every state had a different date for this requirement and Indiana’s mandate started on July 27, 2020. Now in the year of 2021 and the month of September, the circumstances have drastically.

changed. Even though our current President Joe Biden wants to make the mask mandate nationwide, he is not able to order this mandate. Lawrence Gostin, director of Georgetown University’s O’Neill Institute for National and Global Law said, “A national mandate is not possible because public health powers belong to the states, not federal government.” The mask was not only enforced to protect individuals, but the public. Some states still hold a mask mandate, but currently in the state of Indiana there is no mask mandate. Governor Eric Holcomb cancelled the mandate on April 6, 2021, but masks are still required to be worn in schools’ grades K-12, government buildings and vaccination or covid testing sites. The virus is airborne through particles and droplets of fluid that are exhaled from person to person. Also, the virus can lead to infection through close contact through people. The face mask mandate stimulated from this discovery.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) suggests that all members of the public, regardless of their vaccination status to wear a mask in crowded places indoors. The vaccine allows people the ability to resume their lives before the pandemic. The mask is to be worn while using different forms of public transportation. There are certain places you are prevented from entering if you do not have on a mask. The mask is just one of the protective ways to stop the spread of covid from people outside your home. The mask is suggested to be worn by people who are older than two years old. Wearing a mask is difficult for people with disabilities and young children. However, masks are not necessary to wear when you are outside away from others, or in your household.

There are many different types of masks that are designed to protect individuals from the virus. Cloth masks are made from multiple layers that fit properly over your face. Disposable masks are the standard mask that is widely used with easy access to breath and talk through. Respirators are masks that have been tested to meet international standards. These masks are made specially for diseases like Covid. They are more smug, harder to breathe in, cannot be washed, and more expensive to buy. You can even get creative and have your mask homemade with design, pockets, glitter, paint, letters, etc. Health professionals suggest that you wear the mask correctly

with your and mouth completely covered. Your mask should also be secured behind your ears with loops. Any mask is acceptable if you meet the requirements.

The restrictions of the mask mandate have changed, but face masks are still stressed across the country. An example of this is children being able to attend school and the administration working to teach students, but with face masks on. This has caused many people like Tucker Carlson to question the quality of the vaccination because they want their lives back to normal before the pandemic happened. Public health officials have taken extra precaution in making sure the vaccine works in protecting us.

The tone of this portion in the article includes anger and frustration. Many Americans are confused about the Biden Administration wanting to increase restrictions. The vaccination works and the purpose is to help protect many from the virus but, they are not seeing any results. The author claims the government is being unfair in not giving us the choice of choosing to take the vaccination. A big study in The New England Journal of Medicine showed that COVID vaccines offer a higher level of protection against the new delta variant of virus. The author believes that Biden Administration is trying to control people politically by instilling fear into them to take the virus and wear a mask.

However, this claim cannot be supported because it is an opinion about how he feels towards the situation. There is no evidence to justify this claim. The article is not a good source because it is based on what he thinks and wants done. He also seems to think he is the voice of reason for all Americans by creating his own statements of what people are saying. There are no statements of other people’s dislike toward this situation, just his thoughts and opinions. Tucker is also closed minded and commenting irrational things that cannot be used as evidence for an argument. He comments things like we live in a world with crazy people running our country. He also stated ““A rational administration would make vaccinations available to anyone who wants one and leave the rest of the population alone to lives their lives – like they used to do in America back when it was a free country.”

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution article is sharing a story of a former teacher Charis Granger – Mbugua feelings throughout the journey of sending her two young children back to school, where there is no mask mandate. What used to start off as anticipation quickly turned into worry and fear for her children. Many parents can relate to the feeling of unknown when your child is not in your care or view. Some school and state districts do not choose to put guidelines in place, despite health protocols. They instead leave the decision up to the people in whether they want to wear a mask or not.

She states twice in the article that many people are not able to make a choice in withdrawing their kids from school or afford health care if hospitalization is needed to protect their families. This statement is true because there is an article on children of color disproportionally impacted by severe COVID-19 illness and death. The article is adamant in trying to get the readers to understand the point of view in this parent’s concern of her children’s health and others while attending school. The article is emotionally attachable because you can feel the mother’s passion as she uses words like “I am begging.” This could be a great source to use for people who want a mask mandate and think everyone should continue to wear a mask.

When the covid rates started dropping and the vaccination was offered, nature news article was surprised just like every other American. Yet this was another change American people had to adapt too. The status of Covid-19 has put many people in positions they did not expect to be in. No one could have enough time to prepare for this virus. States across the world are struggling with the decision to set their own policies of a mask mandate. Some countries like China quickly adapted to the mask mandate, while other countries like Germany waited on officials to commence the mandate. Masks are used as a protective barrier, but not all masks are the same. Masks come from different cloth and certain mask are made specifically to cover your face, while others are just for fashion. There are mask guidelines that help you determine acceptable masks to wear.

This article is giving the audience different opinions and views from many different backgrounds. It is very culturally based and fair in giving everybody a chance in explaining their view on this topic. The article involves a lot of background research that focuses on several different countries, including the United States. The author is trying to get us to understand the science behind the mask mandate by including stats and data to support the topic. The article is fair with an even tone that is stating more facts than opinions. By reading this article, I understand the topic through a different perspective.

Although the purpose of wearing a mask is to protect individuals, it should be a choice for the individual to make. The government does not hold enough power to enforce individuals to do things they are not comfortable with. Wearing a mask can be beneficial to some people and suffocating to others. The discussion of masks has created a division amongst the government, American people, politics, and science. Covid has completely changed our way of living. We have heard the stories, seen the headlines, and even witnessed how this mask mandate continues to be a worldwide debate.

Wearing a mask does help prevent the spread of diseases but is also not 100% effective in stopping you from catching the disease. Wearing a mask is just one efficient way of protection. There are other necessary measures you must take to slow the spread of the disease like, social distancing, consistently washing your hands, and getting vaccinated. Many scientists have relied on testing different masks on how effective they are against other masks. There is evidence that wearing face masks has been helpful. Covid cases and death rates have decreased in several states. This has caused government officials to be lenient in dropping the mask guidelines. This decision has made some people happy and others concerned about their safety.

There are some people still choosing to wear a mask. People who continue to keep their mask on reasons extend beyond their health. NBC news has an article that talks about why people are considering wearing for social reasons. Some people might describe that wearing a mask offers them some form of peace. Face masks have not only helped people dodge the bullet of being sick but helped them hide their emotions from others around them. Jaz Johnson is a perfect example of this statement by saying “It’s been pretty fun now that no one really knows, necessarily, what I’m thinking.” Often being in public settings can cause a form of anxiety, self-consciousness, and fear. Examples of these forms of emotions are being in a crowded public place like the grocery store, the thought of you being watched and judged by people, and fear of embarrassing yourself in public by falling. Another major reason of why people continue to wear face masks is to protect members of the elderly in their family safe. Some additional minor reasons may be to reduce the stress of having to put on makeup and not having to consistently smile.

People who are against wearing masks all the time hope that masks do not become a permanent lifestyle. Wearing a mask can be offensive toward outside people. Most masks cover your entire and some people would even say that they feel isolated from society. The outbreak of the coronavirus was a lot to bare and caused many stressful situations in people lives. A lot of families spent time apart for months, endured the pain of watching loved lives become infected with the virus, or even suffered through the complications of the virus themselves. Regarding of the many sources and articles to choose from with information, many people still have their own opinion of the topic. There is still not enough convincing evidence for people to completely believe in wearing a mask or taking the vaccine. Anti-mask advocates find that wearing a mask is pointless and does not work. There have been many cases where people who consistently wear a mask, social distance themselves from others, and do all necessary actions to keep germs to a minimum still have been affected by covid.

The mask mandate is an ongoing controversial topic that has everyone wanting to state their opinion. Everyone should have the right to choose what they want to do to protect themselves. The option of a mask should be an open discussion to everyone. This open can help the American people adapt better to future changes to come happening politically involving the government. The debate is more fun when more people are involved. I believe that people can make the right decision that benefits them. I strongly agree that any and every vote can count towards a beneficial win for the United States.

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| **Project Portion** | **Ideal Criteria** | **Overall Feedback** |
| Introduction | * Engaging * Shows importance of question * Indicates major parts and content |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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 |  |