What Purpose Does a Mask Mandate Have?

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.

Analysis

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. According to an announcement made by the CDC, the health administration will force masks on people regardless of their vaccination status. 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.

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 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.”

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.

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. Many families have made the decision of whether they should let their children return to school after a year of being at home from COVID-19. Data from cases of covid change daily, which can be difficult in knowing what source to trust. 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.

Charis’s decision is clear in having her children wear mask, despite their classmates not wearing one. She has based this decision on what is best in protecting her children, family members, herself, and outsiders. 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 were 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.

The state of New Hampshire seems to feel as if things have been moving too fast. Erin Perkins a manager of a shop in this state is a witness to this claim. She states that she is not comfortable in changing thing despite the vaccine or mask mandate. Health officials are struggling in being able to tell the different between vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Many people are not wearing masks and the rates of COVID-19 are both increasing and decreasing. 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.

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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 | Make sure you include a bibliography (MLA or APA) for all the sources you used. |
| 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 | Work on better summary of the articles, truly representing the main things they state.  You recognize the bias in the Carlson article well, but you need to recognize it’s at work in the Atlanta news article as well.  You make some good analytical observations, there just aren’t enough of them and for all the articles. |
| 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 |  |