What is a mask mandate? A mask mandate is a government ruling to reduce the spread of any viral disease that can spread via air currents. The COVID-19 Delta variant has made transferring the virus quite easy to pass from one person to another. Since this new variant transformed from the last one, a mask mandate was put into place to reduce the spread. “In April 2020, the WHO acknowledged that wearing a medical mask can limit the spread of certain respiratory viral diseases including COVID-19.” (Wikipedia)

Why did the CDC change the mask mandate from not wearing masks for the general public in early 2020 to recommending on April 3,2020 that the general public wear cloth coverings? In early 2020, the WHO gave recommendations that people that were suspected of infection and respiratory symptoms, healthcare workers, caregivers of the sick and those that shared living space should be the ones to wear a medical mask. Then in June 2020, revised the mask mandate to recommend the general public wear a non-medical mask when physical distancing was not possible. The Covid-19 virus is transmitted by close contact and droplets. The CDC said wearing of masks serve two purposes, reducing the emission of virus droplets from being exhaled into the environment and reduce inhalation of droplets for the wearer. Wearing a mask can stop the spread of the virus from infecting others.

The CDC required the wearing of a mask back on April 3, 2020. The requirement of a mask has shown a wide variety of different mask being created or bought. Some mask that can be used in the mask mandate are cloth masks, different surgical variants, bandanas, respirators, and face shields. The only requirements for a face mask are that it needs to have at least 3 layers of liner, no loose fabrics, no slits, and it needs to cover both nose and mouth. Children under the age of 2 should not wear masks, according to the CDC. As of Sept. 13,2021, there are 42 U.S. states and territories that do not have state/territories mask mandates per the U.S. News article.

Several schools and distracts returned to remote learning in IN, they implemented a mask mandate for them to continue the education for children. They attempted to start of the year with mask-optional which was in response to the demands of parents per the IndyStar article. Mask mandates are required in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status in most states in areas where Covid-19 is surging, per the CDC’s latest guidance was established in 12 U.S. states/territories. Only California, Connecticut, and New York have mask mandates for the unvaccinated. Unvaccinated should wear a mask to protect themselves and others in outdoor settings per the CDC. Fully vaccinated should were a mask in crowded outdoor settings, and activities that involve any kind of close contact with others not fully vaccinated.

According to Tucker Carlson mandating millions of children to wear masks is lunacy, because the wearing of masks pose a greater risk to children than covid does. He does not agree with the wearing of masks by vaccinated adults either, since they were promised if they took the vaccine than they could have their lives back. He goes on to state that a rational person might think they were lied too, does the vaccination not work as intended?

The Biden administration still tells people where to go, who they can talk to, and what they can wear. Because public health leaders make the ruling based on data to protect their loved ones and themselves from the virus, this is just an extra step because the virus is so transmissible. Tucker Carlson said it is more of a you wear a mask because the government said so. They issue the mandate to wear a mask without explaining it, you then obey it. Our government calls you a murderer if you don’t obey it, that is just how the government works. The White House is a decaying system, the people who make the decisions are being discredited too.

Carlson believes we have crazy people running the country, because sane leaders would acknowledge the science. That you have natural immunity to the virus, because millions have already recovered from Covid and don’t require the vaccine. He believes that the Biden administration has used Covid to ride to victory last November, by blame and fear and dividing Americans against one another, unvaccinated vs. vaccinated. Everything is being used as a political strategy. America is getting vaccine mandates, even though Biden assured us in December that would never happen.

The 2021-22 school year for Georgia, Cobb has a policy that encourages masks, but is not requiring them for in-person learning. The latest variant of Covid-19 is said to be a much more formidable opponent. The CDC is saying that the delta variant is more transmissible than MERS, SARS, Ebola, smallpox, seasonal flu and the common cold. To keep children safe when doing in-person learning it should be a priority to implement masking to everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status.

Charis Granger-Mbugua has shared her fear about sending her two young children to school knowing they do not have a mask mandate. Masking would protect her children against Covid-19. Her feelings of a new school year beginning with joyful anticipation were replaced by fear, guilt, anger, worry at the unknown safety and health of her children. Charis tries to teach her children to make “good choices.” That the debate around masking is choice, and for all intents and purposes, is not a bad thing. Many send their children to school knowing they might get sick, or even bring the virus home to a fragile family member. Many cannot afford adequate health care for their families let alone themselves. She wants you to listen to the experts, to sacrifice your comfort and preferences now and make the choice to mask up. Think about the children that are ineligible to get the vaccination.

Maybe just maybe district leaders and elected officials could just choice to do the right thing, making it a priority to choose the safety and health of families and students by masking up. That it is hard for a child to wear a mask all day when she sees her peers are not. There is no evidence that masking up is detriment to her well-being and long-term health, but without it, she could become sick with Covid-19 and infect someone. As a mother, responsible adult, uncomfortable decisions can be made to protect our children and others.

The debate over the effectiveness of masks, rather to mask up or not, goes on. Both state and federal moves to lift mask mandates for the fully vaccinated happened a little too fast according to Anne Hoen, an epidemiologist at Dartmouth College. The article “What the science says about lifting mask mandates” by Lynn Peeples was out of step for many other countries, that the USA had weakened its policies. Confusion and a mess of data that needed interpreted by public-health officials and politicians has been a problem throughout the entire pandemic. They are making it up as they have gone along, public-health scientists and officials are struggling to get unvaccinated people to wear masks, even though there is clear evidence that’s masks cut down on Covid-19 deaths. It is said changes need to be made carefully, relaxing restrictions to give people hope and motivation to get the vaccine.

April 6,2020, Jena, Germany was the first community in the world to require people to wear masks in public. Dropping new cases by 75% during the 20 days after the ruling was brought out to the city. They used messaging and role models to get the public ready. Large-scale spread of disease through mask mandates was adverted in China and other Asian nations. Early wearing of face masks in the pandemic could have reduced the weekly growth rate of cases and deaths in the United States by more that 10 percentage points in late April 2020. Deaths could have been reduced by as much as 47% across the country by May 2020.

In March of this year a survey of more than 350,000 people said they were wearing a mask, not because of government mandates. People were wearing a mask because masks protect both the wearer and the people around them. Mandates do have effect but so does community buy-in.

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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 list all three sources used for this part in a bibliography.  Change the parts highlighted and this will be a really good section. Nice changes. |
| 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 good news is you are using paragraphs well!  The bad news is that you are either summarizing or giving your opinion.  You had some good observations in the discussion post for Week 6 and that article. Do the same thing for these three.  Look at the Week 6 posts by Jill Christen, Neely Shuherk, and Mina Diakite. Examine what kinds of things they are pointing out about that article and see if you can find similar things going on in your three.  Emotional triggers are key to both the biased articles. Credible sources are also something to examine. |
| 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 |  |