# Some people believe in the effectiveness of the decisions regarding the mask mandate. An example of this belief is in the article, “Opinion: As mother of young children, I beg Cobb to mandate masks”, by Maureen Downey of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In the article, she expresses concern about her two children going back to school with a pandemic in the mix. She then explains the delta variant of Covid-19 and the importance of the mask mandate put in place to protect people from it. She concludes the article with a request that schools make masks a requirement when in the building.

When defending her claim, she cites her sources efficiently, while mixing evidence from her personal life into her ideas. Her sources are from news articles and current Covid-19 guidelines, making them fairly credible. News articles can be biased in certain cases, which can take away from the credibility of her support for someone who doesn’t understand where her sources are coming from. Fortunately for Downey, her sources come from reliable news sources that give statistics to defend their arguments. The evidence from Downey’s personal life provides a more emotional take on the topic. She achieves this by using flavorful language in her second paragraph. Downey states, “The excitement of choosing the very best first day of school outfit or eagerly scanning class lists to see familiar names of friends to share a laugh and eat lunch with”. As well as, “In its place, feelings of fear, worry, guilt, confusion, frustration, anger, and even impending doom loomed large and undeniable”. This shifts the mood from more of a lighthearted feel, to feelings of concern that reflect Downey’s opinions on the topic. This provides for a good transition to her sources, as well as a well put together article.

Other people disagree strongly with the mask mandate that was put in place. This is shown in the article, “New Mask Guidelines are About Politics and Control”, by Tucker Carlson on Fox News. Carlson begins his article by comparing strong regimes to strong people, and weak regimes to weak people to show his claim that the mask mandate is truly about the politics and control that he thinks president Biden possesses. The rest of the article follows this idea and how the mask guidelines have changed in correlation to it. Carlson’s comparison to Biden tries to tie the death of Nicolai Ceausescu to the mask mandate, and it doesn’t work. Carlson states, “As his power evaporated, he tried even harder to exert it. So, in that way, every collapsing regime is the same. With that in mind, we learned today that in the face of the waning pandemic, the Biden administration will dramatically increase [COVID](https://www.foxnews.com/category/health/infectious-disease/coronavirus) restrictions across the country”. It isn’t as effective as what he thinks it is. He doesn’t show research for that statement, or any statement for that matter to defend it. The only websites that are linked are search results on Fox News. This shows clear bias and the untrustworthiness that follows it. Carlson uses more emotional language than anything else. His article would strongly benefit from research that isn’t from Fox News that supports his claims with statistics. His article would be more credible, and less biased if he did.

# The article, “What the science says about lifting mask mandates” by Lynne Peeples is probably the best article to put in between the last two. It does fantastic work on not taking sides and coming up with unbiased arguments. The article begins with other people’s situations in regards to the mask mandate being lifted temporarily in some states. Peeples then uses statistics to prove that masks work. After that, she compares Covid-19 to the AIDS/HIV pandemic that occurred in the 1980’s. She concludes the article with an idea of what the mask mandate holds in the future. Peeple’s sources are reliable, and prove the effects that masks have in stopping the spread of disease. She only uses a few sources from her own website, but even those aren’t biased in any way. This article is purely just an overview of the mask mandate’s history in 2021, and other peoples opinions about it. Peeples states that, “just two weeks after communicating that vaccinated people should continue to mask up indoors. Perkins wasn’t personally comfortable with unmasked people in her shop.” This shows how the mask mandate has effected peoples daily lives. Out of all of the articles stated, this article seems like the best way to get information about what the masks really do for people. No bias or opinion can effect what really happens scientifically, and this article does a great job expressing that.

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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 | For background it’s more important to write about what reasons were given for the mandate and what the mandate entailed, not the debate.  To try to show you how important paragraphs can be to see different points, I’ve put all of my direction that I expect you to follow in one long string in the comment. Do you see how frustrating it can be to just pack everything in one paragraph? You need to hunt for each point instead of knowing that points will be build into easy-to-read paragraphs. |
| 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 treatment of the first article is great.  For the Fox News article, the quote you use is too long. To keep it to 25 words or fewer, use just part of it. You can take words out and replace them with ellipses (…).  It would also be helpful to give examples of the emotional language you refer to. |
| 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 |  |