

Student 4

Langston/Suggs 1

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English IV

5 November 2014

1

**Daniel Ellsberg**

THESIS STATEMENT

Everyday people make decisions. It can be something as simple as what to eat for dinner or even what movie you want to watch. However, some decisions are more costly than others, and may result in a life-threatening situation. Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers ~~back~~ in 1971 is one of these people, who made a choice that jeopardized his position as well as making him a controversial person ever since.

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Thesis = 1 sentence  
Thesis = showd clearly  
state your stance

~~OUTLINE~~

~~I~~  
A. Introduction

~~A~~  
Historical Facts

1. Why is he such a controversial figure in history?

2. How are people divided on what he did, and how is it important to people today?

C. How is Ellsberg considered a Hero to many?

1. Freedom of Speech

2. Morality vs the Law

C. How is Ellsberg a Villain?

1. Leaked papers that he swore an oath to protect.

D. Conclusion

- do not mix sentence + topic outline formats

- incorrect formatting (where is the sample you received + the practice outline you computed?)

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unnecessary  
verbiage - move  
straight  
to point  
of paper/  
your  
stance

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Everyday people make decisions. It can be something as simple as what to eat for dinner or even what movie you want to watch. However, some decisions are more costly than others, and may result in a life-threatening situation. Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers back in 1971 is one of these people, who made a choice that jeopardized his position as well as making him a controversial person ever since.

was he  
right or  
wrong?

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Former U.S. Head of Defense Daniel Ellsberg belongs on a pedestal for some and needs to be locked in a cell for life to others. During the time of the Vietnam War, Daniel Ellsberg was a high official within the United States government. He attended numerous events expressing

huh?  
acts?

→ wishy  
washy

title? ←

why it was important to support the young men fighting overseas, and the more events that he attended, the more he began to realize the horrific acts being hidden by the government and the high amount of pain that it was causing with the war. After much thinking, Daniel Ellsberg broke

such as?

→ how did he learn?

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into the storage locker and sold the Pentagon Papers, which were several documents over seven thousand pages combined that exposed the real reason why the United States had gotten involved with the Vietnam War, to the famed newspaper The New York Times. After the exposure, Daniel

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Ellsberg was a highly controversial person. He was put on trial, with the final verdict eventually being not guilty. Though Ellsberg considers himself to be a "Fugitive of Justice" (Linder 1), many people were polarized when the verdict was announced, and still to this day, people are still divided.

→ for  
what  
offense?  
charges?

→ not  
in  
big

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Daniel Ellsberg can be thought of as a hero for numerous reasons. To begin, the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States gives the right of freedom of speech. Thus,

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Daniel Ellsberg used his right to his advantage in order to speak up for what he believed in. This relates back to when Ellsberg first contemplated the idea of leaking the papers to begin with.

According to a past interview, Ellsberg stated that "Their example put the question in my head: what could I do to help shorten this war, now that I'm prepared to go to prison for it" (Ellsberg

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1). Therefore a strong question is proposed: is it wrong to speak up when one feels that it is necessary? One may say that a good sense of morality doesn't come into effect when secrets

must remain hidden, however many people would agree that one must always speak up for what they personally believe, no matter the costs that could potentially come into effect due to one

proposing their personal beliefs. Throughout the years people have stood up for what they believed in no matter what the law may say, and even though they were harmed in various ways,

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they did not seem to care as long as they got their point across to the public. Daniel Ellsberg stating his personal belief and saving countless amounts of death and destruction that the

government would have eventually brought forth upon the already horrific Vietnam War can easily be thought of as the acts of a hero, swooping in to save countless lives just in time.

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However, many people today view Ellsberg as an enemy to the United States, as they have many points that counter the facts that praise him as a hero as well.

Daniel Ellsberg's releasing of the Pentagon Papers, like many controversies, possess contradictory views toward the situation. He is seen as somewhat of a "villain" and/or "traitor"

20

by a variety of people. Many important and well-known figure heads of the time, i.e. Richard Nixon, did not become well accustomed to Ellsberg's actions. President Richard Nixon called his

actions "criminally traitorous," and Ellsberg was arrested and charged with theft and espionage ("Whistleblowers" 1). He would interject this because he was one of the main people described

22

too vague - what exactly did he do? What was the info?

examples? how do they relate to you to point you're making?

not listed in bib

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in the Pentagon Papers for his corrupt actions, which forced Nixon to resign early from the presidency. Since the Vietnam War was occurring at the time, Ellsberg saw it as a perfect

opportunity to publish the Papers. Smuggling top-secret government documents during war

infuriated many people into their traitorous feelings. He just felt the American public needed to

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know what their supposed "good" government was initiating, and that the morality of it all was

more important to the greater good of Americans than to let the government continue in its

dissolute ways.

In many situations, Daniel Ellsberg can be thought of as being a respected traitor or an unhelpful hero. Different viewpoints will emerge as time goes by about this controversial event

quite a bit of time has passed -

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in American history. Ellsberg's revealing of the Pentagon Papers changed how the American

government has been viewed ever since, just some did not want that to occur in that way.?

what is?

Whether it meaning one man's determination to promote the greater good and well-being of his

13

fellow American citizens, or for his own selfish ways, it is the matter of one's opinion.

Be specific!

what is yours?

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Works Cited

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"Daniel Ellsberg Biography." *Bio.com*. A&E Networks Television, n.d. Web. 04 Nov. 2014.

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"Daniel Ellsberg: NSA Leaker Snowden Made the Right Call." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2014.

"The Daniel Ellsberg (Pentagon Papers) Trial: A Chronology." *The Daniel Ellsberg (Pentagon Papers) Trial: A Chronology*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Nov. 2014.

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Franke-Ruta, Garance. "The NSA Leaks and the Pentagon Papers: What's the Difference Between Edward Snowden and Daniel Ellsberg?" *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, 15 June 2013. Web. 04 Nov. 2014.

13

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When did you  
use these  
sources?

## Work Sample Evaluation

**Subject Area:** Composition 2

**Task Title:** Traitors or Patriots?

**Student Work Sample Title:** Daniel Ellsberg

The document was scored using the *CCR Task Bank Rubric*. The final scores are indicated in the following chart.

Scoring Criteria	Insufficient Evidence	Developing	Progressing	Accomplished	Exceeds
Research and Investigation	X				
Ideas and Content		X			
Reading and Analysis	X				
Communication		X			
Organization		X			
Accuracy		X			



**Annotations:** The following evidence from the work sample and the reviewer’s comments support the scores above. Page and line numbers refer to the original work sample.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
<b>Research and Investigation:</b> <i>Locating resources independently and/or identifying information within provided texts</i>	4	ALL	The student includes a number of sources, but they are not incorporated well into the paper or used as sufficient support in the work sample.
<b>Ideas and Content:</b> <i>Presenting a thesis and understanding concepts</i>	3	19	While the thesis is stated, it is not clearly outlined.
	5	8-13	The conclusion has the potential to confuse the reader because it lacks a summary of the author’s position.
<b>Reading and Analysis:</b> <i>Evaluating sources and selecting evidence to support the central idea</i>	3	16-18	The student attempts to include two citations but the evidence is insufficient. One citation isn’t included in the Works Cited page.
	4	3-5, 19-22	See above.
<b>Communication:</b> <i>Using subject-appropriate language and considering audience</i>	3	1-5, 6-18	The ideas in the work sample are often unclear.
	4	6-16	The background information and context is lacking, which makes it difficult for readers to understand the historical gravity of the topic.
	5	8-13	See above.
<b>Organization:</b> <i>Structuring main ideas and supporting information</i>	3	1-5, 6-18	The main ideas within the student’s work sample are not well supported.
	4	6-16	See above.
	5	8-13	See above.
<b>Accuracy:</b> <i>Attending to detail, grammar, spelling, conventions, citations, and formatting</i>	3	6-11, 14-18	The student’s paper lacks attention to detail.
	4	3-8	See above.
	4	20-22	There is one citation that is not included in Works Cited list.