ESL – Final Project/Presentation: A Controversial Issue

A few weeks ago, in Nanaimo, a judge ordered a husband and wife to pay $48,000 in damages because their 14-year-old son had played a joke at school by activating the fire alarms and sprinklers, and causing damages to the school. Some people believed this was unfair to the parents; after all, they did not do anything wrong. Other people believed this was fair; they said it was the parents' responsibility for the boy's actions.

This is a controversial issue. It is difficult to say exactly what is right and what is wrong, and different people have different opinions on the topic.

For your final project in this course, choose a controversial issue, and complete the following assignment:

A) **NOTES**: Using the note-taking template from the library website, take notes from sources listed in the ***Canadian Points of View Reference Centre***. (Your notes should be in your words, not copied and pasted!)
B) **WRITING**: Write a persuasive paragraph that states your position and gives at least three clear reasons to support your opinion.
C) **PRESENTATION**: Create and present a Powerpoint or Prezi for the class. In it, you should explain the issue you chose, and the reasons why you believe what you believe. Your presentation should be <u>no longer than five minutes</u>, and should include:
   - What is the topic/issue?
   - Why is it controversial?
   - Some examples of this topic, or its history.
   - Three strong reasons why you believe what you believe.
   - At least one possible counter-argument and your response to it.

Presentations will happen on <u>Tuesday, February 3rd</u> during class exam time.

This project will be completed instead of a final exam for this course.
Be prepared to answer questions from the audience!

Here are some of the issues and topics which appear on the Canadian Points of View Reference Centre:

- Plastic Surgery
- Capital Punishment (Death Penalty)
- Child Labour
- Homelessness
- Illegal downloading from the Internet
- Marijuana Prohibition
- Videogames