



Task Title: Discuss a Controversial Topic

OALCF Cover Sheet – Learner Copy

Learner Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

Successful Completion: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal Path: Employment ☐ Apprenticeship ☐

Secondary School ☐ Post Secondary ☐ Independence ☐

Task Description: The learner will read articles on a controversial topic, research additional discussion points, and present to a discussion partner.

Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:

- Find and Use Information/Read continuous text/A1.3
- Communicate Ideas and Information/Interact with others/B1.3
- Use Digital Technology/D.3

Materials Required:

- Pen/pencil and paper and/or digital device
- Conversation partner (instructor)

Learner Information

In many secondary and post-secondary classes, students are asked to debate controversial issues. Students will often prepare by researching and writing down their discussion points in advance. They can then practise forming arguments and defending positions before entering into debate.

Read the following articles about author Thomas King:

“Celebrated Author Thomas King Expects ‘Firestorm’ As He Reveals He’s Not Indigenous”:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/author-thomas-king-inconvenient-indian-cherokee-not-indigenous-9.6991188>

“Thomas King Revealed He Isn’t Indigenous. Should We Keep Reading His Work?”:

<https://www.cbc.ca/arts/commotion/thomas-king-revealed-he-isnt-indigenous-should-we-keep-reading-his-work-9.6993654>

“Indigenous Scholars Say Thomas King Case ‘Shockingly Similar’ to Others Falsely Claiming Ancestry”:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thomas-king-scholars-react-9.6992591>

Work Sheet

Task 1: Thomas King has received several awards for his non-fiction writing about Indigenous experiences. Prepare at least two (2) debate points in favour or against whether King should return these awards. You may conduct additional online research to learn more about this issue. List your debate points.

Answer:

Task 2: King's books are frequently used in high school classrooms. Prepare at least two (2) debate points in favour or against whether King's books should continue to be taught to students. You may conduct additional online research to learn more about this issue. List your debate points.

Answer:

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Task 3: King has stated that he did not investigate his family origins and Indigenous identity until recently. Prepare at least one debate point in favor or against whether he should have explored his family history sooner. List your debate point.

Answer:

Task 4: Prepare and present a five-minute presentation explaining this controversy. Include the points you addressed in Tasks 1, 2 and 3. Respond to any questions your instructor asks about your debate points.

Answer: No written response required here.

Task completed: Yes: ☐