**8th Grade Argumentative Essay**

**Prompt:** We are definitely living through historic times. It’s doubtful that any of us will ever forget this time when there has been a shortage of everything from food to hand sanitizer to toilet paper. But another thing might also be in short supply – freedom. There are some who argue that the government is going too far during the COVID-19 crisis and suspending too many freedoms. Others argue that it’s the government’s duty to take drastic measures in order to protect everyone – even if those measures temporarily take away some of our Constitutional rights.

You have five articles as sources. Some offer both points of view. Others clearly take one point. It’s up to you to read all five sources and to decide how you feel about this issue. Take one of these two positions:

**Position #1:** The United States government’s first role is to protect the freedoms of its citizens, regardless of what the crisis is. Once we give away freedoms, we run the risk of never getting them back.

**Position #2:** While the Constitution of the United States is important, the government’s first duty is to protect the lives of its people. Sometimes we have to give up freedoms for that to happen.

Make sure to write a fully developed essay, including sources. (If you still have questions about writing an argumentative essay, refer to the PowerPoint in the Links and Resources section on my Weebly site.) DO NOT START this essay UNTIL you have completed and submitted your planning. Use that completed planning sheet to help you write this essay, and type it into this Word file.