**Dueling Facts: Individual Rights vs Common Good Assessment**

**Government Standard 4.2.c** Analyze and explain the importance of the principles of democracy and the inherent competition among values. Values to include but not be limited to freedom and security, **individual rights and common good**, and rights and responsibilities

**prop·a·gan·da**

[prop-uh-gan-duh]

–noun

1. information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.

2. the deliberate spreading of such information, rumors, etc.

3. the particular doctrines or principles propagated by an organization or movement

*Effective propaganda sometimes employs apparently reasoned argument. Charts, diagrams, and factual assertions in some of the posters you will analyze often stand in contrast to the emotional appeals in other posters you will analyze. Still, these pieces are propaganda because (on their own) they fail to encourage discussion, thought or exploration; instead leading the reader to pre-determined conclusions.  This type of propaganda is often called* ***card-stacking****. Here the propagandist "stacks the deck," making it appear that all the facts support his side. Assuming for a moment that all of its assertions are indeed true (a big assumption), careful analysis may show that the inferences the propagandist wants you to draw are not.*

**Poster 1:**

1. In one clear sentence, summarize the message you believe is being transferred by this poster.
2. Whom does this poster target? Be specific- does it target a particular lifestyle, gender, economic status, age etc.? Explain how you know.
3. Clearly state the behavior or belief the author wants to elicit from the target audience.
4. Does the message use emotion, reason, or both to manipulate opinions? How successful is it?
5. If you were neutral about this topic, would you believe this item is successful propaganda? Use evidence to support your answer. (Set aside your personal opinions for this).

**Poster 2:**

1. In one clear sentence, summarize the message you believe is being transferred by this poster.

2. Whom does this poster target? Be specific- does it target a particular lifestyle, gender, economic status, age etc.? Explain how you know.

3. Clearly state the behavior or belief the author wants to elicit from the target audience.

4. Does the message use emotion, reason, or both to manipulate opinions? How successful is it?

5. Do you believe this item is successful propaganda to a neutral person? What evidence supports your claim?

**Poster 3:**

1. What idea or mindset is this poster trying to “sell?”
2. How does this poster use card-stacking to get its idea across?
3. What evidence (facts, something that can be checked) is provided?
4. What aspects of this poster are opinions or generalizations?

**Poster 4:**

* 1. What idea or mindset is this poster trying to “sell?”
  2. How does this poster use card-stacking to get its idea across?
  3. What evidence (facts, something that can be checked) is provided?

4. What aspects of this poster are opinions or generalizations?

**Step 3:** Now that you have studied the Second Amendment, explored the history of gun control, and identified bias on both sides, you will attempt to uphold individual freedoms while protecting the citizens of your country from gun violence. You are acting as a US Senator on a team who has been put in charge of drafting a Second Amendment compromise law that will balance individual freedoms and the common good. Keep in mind that this is a compromise, so you must balance the interests of both sides. You will submit a two-paragraph write-up that follows the guidelines below:

* Paragraph 1: Assess the importance of maintaining individual rights while also providing for the good of the nation (in general, not as it relates to gun control). Then, explain how the competition of individual rights and the common good relates to the Second Amendment.
* Paragraph 2: Propose and explain your compromise law that will balance individual rights and the common good in the area of gun control. You will need to explain what law/s will be enacted and, specifically, how your plan will compromise both individual freedoms and the common good.