

Name: _____ Date: _____

BUY, BUY HOLIDAYS

Directions: Use the following list of guiding questions and quotes to help you develop your position for an essay on the excerpt from the article “A Shopping Guernica Captures the Moment.”

Choose 1-2 of the quotes from below to use in defending your position, then use one or more resources to find evidence for your position.

Quotation from “A Shopping Guernica Captures the Moment”:

“For decades, Americans have been effectively programmed to shop. China, Japan and other foreign powers have provided the wherewithal to purchase their goods by buying staggering quantities of American debt. Financial institutions have scattered credit card offers as if they were takeout menus and turned our houses into A.T.M.’s. Hollywood and Madison Avenue have excelled at persuading us that the holiday season is a time to spend lavishly or risk being found insufficiently appreciative of our loved ones.”

Guiding Questions:

What are your observations about how and why we shop as a culture? Do you agree that Americans have been “effectively programmed to shop”?

My position:

Quotes:

“Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money.”
~Author Unknown

“The only gift is a portion of thyself.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.”
~Stephen Butler Leacock, quoted in Michael Jackman, Crown's Book of Political Quotations, 1982

“After a visit to the beach, it's hard to believe that we live in a material world.” ~Pam Shaw

“To perceive Christmas through its wrappings becomes more difficult with every year.” ~E. B. White

“It used to be that people needed products to survive. Now products need people to survive.” ~Nicholas Johnson

“The safe way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket.” ~Frank Hubbard

“Debt is the worst poverty.” ~Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

Resources: