

MODEL JOURNAL ENTRIES

Title of Source	“Gun Control is Not Impossible”
Author of Source	Julian Zelizer (<i>The Atlantic</i>)
Highlight the two (or more) that you included in your journal response below.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ summary ★ opinion ★ connection ★ insights/questions
Your Journal Response	<p>In the article, “Gun Control Is Not Impossible,” the author, Julian E. Zelizer, contrasts the devastation caused by gun violence in the 1990s with the current, ever-growing crisis of mass public shootings to persuade the reader that gun control legislation is a possible solution. during the proliferation of mass shootings in the 1990s, President Clinton and a well-organized grassroots campaign worked together to pass the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 (requiring background checks and a waiting period for the purchase of firearms) and the 1994 Crime Omnibus bill (which included a ban on assault weapons). By the conclusion of the article, the reader is encouraged to believe that if our unified efforts could slay the proverbial giant--the gun lobby--twenty years ago, we could accomplish the same feat today.</p> <p>While I appreciate Zelizer’s attempt to generate hope for a situation that has caused constant fear and anxiety in the American public, I think that it misses the mark in one significant way: it focuses on a course of action that would likely do little to solve our problem in the long run. Many of the perpetrators in these cases used firearms that were obtained legally and were properly registered. If this is the case, what, if anything, would a piece of paper do to stop such a heinous act? Unless the second amendment is repealed</p>

	<p>altogether--an act I do not support as a staunch supporter of the individual's right to bear arms-- I do not see how pushing through more legislation could be an effective use of the taxpayer's time or money. It seems to me, that the larger issue is one of mental health because I do now know what else could account for a desire to do such irreparable harm. Unfortunately, we are a nation that prefers to engage in "quick fixes" rather than doing the hard work to build a culture that pays close attention to the questionable behaviors of our neighbors <i>and</i> follows up to ensure that people get the real help that they need. Until we redirect sufficient resources to this area and make a concerted effort to undertake this complex work, I do not believe that we will see a long-term solution to our nation's most serious social issue.</p>
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Title of Source	"New, Major Evidence That Fracking Harms Human Health,"
Author of Source	Robinson Meyer (<i>The Atlantic</i>)
Highlight the two (or more) that you included in your journal response below.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ summary ★ opinion ★ connection ★ insights/questions
Your Journal Response	<p>In his article "New, Major Evidence That Fracking Harms Human Health," Robinson Meyers reports that "the largest study ever conducted on fracking's health effects" has found a significant increase in low birth weight among infants whose mothers lived within three miles of a fracking site during pregnancy. In contrast, babies who gestated three to 15 miles from fracking sites had normal birth weight ranges. Low birth weight is an important indicator of a person's</p>

future health and success in life. Interestingly, because research so far has failed to show that the chemicals used in fracking invade and poison the groundwater, researchers believe that the low birth weights may instead be a result of air pollution caused by the many diesel generators and large trucks used in fracking.

If the cause of lower birth weights is actually the exhaust (and noise) created by diesel generators and trucks, are there ways to capture the pollutants and reduce the noise without significantly disrupting the harvest of fuels created by fracking? I have read in other articles that the negative effects of fracking are far fewer than those of coal plants, so fracking does serve the greater good. Still, fracking is a solution that focuses only on the short term. In the long term, all hydrocarbons contribute to global warming, and any attention given to fracking steals effort from the development of clean energy solutions, such as wind and solar generated power. The extraction of oil and natural gas, no matter how much less damaging than coal, distracts us and offers false comfort.