Mapping the Controversy, First Submission GENERAL REQUIREMENTS The purpose in this 2-3 page essay (not including the Works Cited page) is to map out the various positions within your chosen controversy, stating clearly what those positions are and then highlighting the relationships among them. Do not—no way, no how—present a one-sided view, as if those who argue certain positions don’t know what they’re talking about. If this is really a controversy, there are several legitimate positions possible, and your job is to articulate each position’s most compelling arguments. One way to avoid bias in this paper is to give each “side” an equal opportunity to present its position from its own perspective. Be sure to attribute statements to their original speakers or organizations: Use attributions and signal phrases such as “According to…” and “As X states…” Also, use verbs that indicate that someone has stated a particular position, such as: “argues,” “advocates,” “asserts,” and “contends.” Such verbs will indicate that the argument you are presenting is not necessarily your own. Your audience for this essay will be concerned and interested but not particularly informed citizens who are looking to you to provide an unbiased lay of the land. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS In the first few pages, you’ll want to sketch out the context and background of this controversy and offer a sense of its significance for your audience. For example, you may want to explain what events turned this issue into a recent controversy, whom this controversy affects, how the outcome of the controversy may affect them, and why this controversy is important to others (that is, why should anyone else care?). In the following pages, you’ll need to accomplish all of the following: Describe the positions ranging across the entire field of the controversy or the various proposed solutions to the controversy: What should we do to fix the problem? Or describe the various positions concerning some sub-topic within the controversy: For example, considering the extent to which immigration sustains much of our country’s economy, how should we punish those who improperly use immigrant labor? Feel free to choose any of the approaches presented, but once you choose, stick to it throughout. Indicate the points of agreement and disagreement among the viewpoints. Remember that the differences between positions may be subtle or drastic and that things don’t always simplify to “side A vs. side B.” Document your sources according to MLA documentation rules. Conclude by synthesizing and reiterating the relations among the various positions. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS your essay must: be 2–3 pages long (not including the Works Cited page), typed, double-spaced; have 1-inch margins, and an MLA heading in the top left-hand corner of the first page with the title centered below the heading. strategically and effectively incorporate at least three sources, at least two of which are viewpoint sources from reputable venues like newspapers or magazines. summarize and analyze all positions fairly, without advocating or slanting document all sources accurately (in text and on Works Cited page) according to MLA guidelines be written effectively and coherently, with few errors in grammar or mechanics