**ENC 1101 Garrett Draft #1 – 10/5 ; Draft #2 – 10/10; Final Draft – 10/15**

**Essay #3 – Critical Analysis**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this essay is to identify and analyze a significant issue. First, you will identify an important issue in one of the topics given. Second, decide on a specific focus/thesis for your paper. In order to do so, you will need to thoroughly read the provided sources to ensure that you understand the issue in its entirety. Finally, break down the issue into various components and analyze them in your essay.

**Characteristics of the Critical Analysis Essay**

A successful essay

* provides an engaging introduction that offers the reader some background information on the topic.
* presents a thesis that offers a sophisticated analysis of the issue chosen.
* supports the thesis through well-developed paragraphs that are organized strategically.
* presents an objective stance by the use of **third-person** voice.
* includes specific details and evidence from primary material.
* integrates secondary material accessed by you or provided by Garrett.
* correctly integrates quotations and conforms to MLA documentation and format guidelines.

**Additional Activity: Counts as 4 Quiz Grades Due 10/3 by 7:00 a.m.**

Read two of the supplied essays from your chosen topic. Highlight important information from the essays. Create an annotated bibliography (source in MLA format and summary with important points included). Sample is on my website. Upload to Turnitin.com in the file labeled Annotated Bib.

**Essay Requirements**

* over 800-1000 words
* Topic approved by Mrs. Garrett
* Minimum of three secondary sources from provided articles, other scholarly articles or interviews
* MLA format for presentation (typed, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times New Roman font, 1” margins) and source documentation (in-text citations and Works Cited page)

**Drafting**

Using your sources, write a rough draft of your essay. The following outline offers a suggested guideline for organizing your critical analysis essay:

*Introduction (one or two paragraphs)*

* Use a lead-in hook to engage your readers' interest. You might use a striking quotation, an interesting statistic or fact, or a related current event. Whatever your choice, the lead-in must be clearly related to the focus you have selected to analyze.
* Provide some background that will help your readers understand the focus you are about to discuss.
* Present your thesis statement. **NO FIRST OR SECOND PERSON IN RESEARCH PAPERS!**

*Body (minimum of six paragraphs)*

* Provide **specific** reasons that support your thesis. Ideally, each reason should be developed separately.
* Offer **concrete examples** that illustrate your reasons.
* Ideally, your critical analysis should progress throughout the essay. You should organize your essay so that the most important and interesting support for your thesis comes towards the end.
* Consider responding to other perspectives that might be different from yours and make an attempt at refuting or weakening such perspectives to further strengthen your thesis.
* Pay attention to proper paragraph development by moving from a general idea (often in a topic sentence) to specific details via **explanations and evidence/examples**. Finish paragraphs with a clincher or closing sentence.
* Transition properly from paragraph to paragraph to achieve overall coherence.

*Conclusion (one or two paragraphs)*

* Restate your thesis in a fresh manner.
* Try to leave with a lasting impression for the reader by calling for action or reminding the reader of the cultural significance of your approach/thesis.

**Important Helpful Information:**

* Need help with MLA format?
  + <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>