Assignment: Cultural Criticism Editorial (400 points)

Material Comprehension: April 6\textsuperscript{th} and 8\textsuperscript{th}

Library Workshop Day: April 13\textsuperscript{th}

\textbf{HACC CON: April 15\textsuperscript{th}} (We will be watching some of our classmates do their presentations!!)

Peer Review: April 20\textsuperscript{th} and 22\textsuperscript{nd}

Due: April 27\textsuperscript{th}

Rhetorical Aim:

You will write a classically styled argument paper critiquing an issue occurring in American culture and society

Development of Content:

There are so many things that occur in American culture today, that the topics to explore are endless. So think to yourself, what makes you tick? In this paper, you will critique an issue happening right now and examine how that issue perpetuates/manifests itself through pop culture, media and its artifacts. What do I mean by artifact? An artifact is any object or medium that is a part of our culture. We have already worked with film, a major American cultural artifact. But think of others, such as television, music and music videos, clothing, facebook pages—these are all cultural artifacts. For this purposes of this assignment, you need to choose 2-3 artifacts to look at.

A critique doesn’t necessarily have to be negative; rather, it could endorse or point out positive things happening. It is completely up to you what route you want to take, so long as you formulate a stance or position on the issue you have picked. \textbf{This of course, is your claim (with reasons).}

You will then present this position and analysis in a classical argument style. We will talk more about this style in class, but in brief, your paper will have four sections: background and history of issue, reasons for argumentation, and addressing of counterarguments/rebuttal, as well as conclusions drawn from your argumentation and analysis of artifacts.

Another interesting element of this paper will be the inclusion of a visual in your paper. This will be especially useful if you are using tumblr, twitter, imgur, or really any visual that should be seen to further your argument. In addition, you could pull other images that could help your cause. The sky is the limit; it all depends on your topic!

Finally, I really want to feel your voice come out in this paper, but it also shouldn’t be just a rant. It should be a thoughtful, close look at the issue at hand, explored through many different areas. But I am going to \textbf{challenge} you once more by not allowing you to use \textbf{first person}. You have had the opportunity to flex your writing skills in the first and second assignments using first person, now let’s see what happens with only using third!
Putting it All Together:

This paper should be no less than eight (8) FULL pages. It of course, can be many, many more. It should be typed, in MLA format, with proper in text citations and a Works Cited page. Papers that do not meet the minimum page length will be docked anywhere between 5-10 points per page, depending on the severity of the length missing.

This paper also has a research component, and requires a minimum of eight (8) quality sources. Of these seven sources you will have once again both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources would be your artifacts. The rest of the sources are secondary sources.

- These sources may vary from books, to database journal articles, to appropriate websites.
- Four of these must be scholarly.
- Each artifact counts as a source!

We will talk more about researching this paper in class. I also highly recommend that you visit the Library and Writing Center's Research Clinic, where you can get research and citation help all in one sitting! Don’t be intimidated by the subject matter of this paper—when there is a will, there is a way. I am here to help you through this journey, as are the wonderful librarians and tutors on campus. Use your resources!!!

Lastly, this is a paper where you can be truly creative. I encourage your to follow your interests and write about an issue that you care about. This passion surely will reflect in your paper!