Length: At least three full pages though some of you will need to write more than this. For the ambitious among you: please don’t go over six pages unless you have a really good reason for doing so, and you discuss it with me before turning it in. Your works cited list does not count as page four. That is page five. These must be three complete pages, not two and half or even two and three-quarters. If you have less than five paragraphs, the essay will fail for not meeting the definition of an essay I gave you in a PowerPoint video in the Week One learning module. You should have more than five paragraphs to develop this well.

Note: if your essay is less than four full pages (before the works cited list, which does not count as one of the four pages), you will earn an F for not meeting the parameters of the assignment. This must be with a normal 11 or 12 point font (Times New Roman or Arial) and normal margins.

Due date: See course calendar

Objectives:
Through the process of writing this essay (and all others in this course), we are trying to achieve the following:

1. Students will practice writing an organized, structured, college-level essay.
2. Students will learn how to construct a logical, convincing analysis and argument.
3. Students’ critical reading and analysis skills, as well as writing skills, will be developed and reinforced.
4. Students’ critical thinking and analytical skills will be developed and reinforced.
5. Students' use of argumentation and other rhetorical devices will be developed and reinforced.
6. Students' ability to use sources for information and to support their own ideas will be developed and reinforced.
7. Students' ability to cite sources will be developed and reinforced.

Instructions:
Write an organized, fully developed essay based on ONE of the following topics. (Yes, you must write about one of these topics.) You must have a thesis, of course, and support your points with specific examples from your experiences, if you have any, and quotes, paraphrases, or summaries from the article/essay you are analyzing. You must have at least one quote from it somewhere in your essay, but you will probably need more to support your points. Your thesis must be an argumentative/analysis one. You are writing an analysis paper. You must also use at least one other source (an article, not a book) from the HACC library's databases to support your points. You must cite those quotes, paraphrases or summaries correctly, using the MLA documentation style. Include, also, a copy of the article(s) from the database(s) that you quoted, paraphrased or summarized from as support in your paper. (Paste into the bottom of your paper, after the works cited list, or upload it as a separate attachment in the Drop Box.)
Note: Wikipedia is not a valid academic resource! You may not use it! Actually, you may not use any Internet source for this paper other than the HACC library's databases (which are, technically, accessed through the Internet).

TOPICS

1. Re-read pp. 146-166 in your textbook. Find a political cartoon in some form of media. It can be in a newspaper, magazine, or online. Write an essay evaluating/analyzing the cartoon, arguing whether or not it is effective in getting across its message. You don't have to agree with its message - you are not arguing the message. You are arguing whether or not it is effective in getting across its message and how and why. Use the checklist on p. 162 and the example of a student essay on pp 165 - 166 as guides. Note: You must include a copy of the cartoon at the bottom of your essay or as an attachment in the Drop Box. I can't grade this without seeing the cartoon.

2. Re-read pp. 182 - 192. Then read this argument by the same author, Nicholas Kristof, "How To Reduce Shootings." (A .pdf version is attached in the Drop Box.) Write an essay analyzing this argument. Your thesis should be whether or not it is an effective argument (not whether or not you agree with him). Don't let your opinion of the topic interfere with your ability to analyze his argument.

3. Re-read pp. 135 - 152. Find an advertisement in some form of media. It can be in a newspaper, magazine, or online. Write an essay evaluating/analyzing the advertisement, arguing whether or not it is effective in getting across its message. You don't have to agree with its message - you are not arguing the message. You are arguing whether or not it is effective in getting across its message and how and why. Note: You must include a copy of the ad or a link to it at the bottom of your essay or as an attachment in the Drop Box. I can't grade this without seeing it.

CHECKLIST

Do you have:

1. _______________ At least three FULL pages?

2. _______________ At least one article from the HACC library's databases to support your points?

3. _______________ At least one quote from the article/essay as well as paraphrases and/or summaries to support your points?
4. _______________ A copy of the article(s) from the database(s) that you quoted, paraphrased or summarized from as support in your paper?

5. _______________ An analysis/ argumentative thesis and paper based on one of the above topics?

6. _______________ A properly formatted works cited list and in-text citations for your sources, including the article/essay you are analyzing?

7. _______________ Did you follow directions??