For this second major writing assignment, you’ll be creating an essay to show you have critically thought about a timely topic and can effectively argue your stance on the issue at hand. You will also work towards a strong argument by composing our third critical response assignment – an annotated bibliography to showcase your familiarity with your sources and the reasoning behind their usability in your essay.

ESSAY PROMPT:
Create a persuasive, argumentative essay that proves an original claim for a timely, relevant topic and question-at-issue you have selected. Your essay must be 1500-1800 words, and should include the following:

- A concise, clear and objective summary of the topic or issue that provides significant details and explains any relevant controversies raised by the topic (See p. 65-66 in “The Language of Argument – Definition” for reminders on how to write effective summaries)
- An analysis of how different sides frame the issue
- An attempt to show that different worldviews exist and impact the way different sides approach the issue
- Your own stance on the issue, including an “argumentative edge” and an original interpretation of sources
- Concessions that acknowledge the merits of opposing views and a counter-argument that refutes contradictory points
- Evidence showing your ability to include at least three different, credible, sources, one of which must be peer-reviewed/scholarly
- Evidence that you are working to develop your own style as an academic writer through revision – showing your own personality or voice and playing with language, sentence variation or word choice
- Transitions between and within paragraphs and ideas
- An organized argument that builds in sophistication and importance as the essay goes on
- A conclusion that answers the “So what?” question for your essay by weighing the information you have provided and attempting to create a universal connection or overall importance

EXPECTATIONS:
- Your essay should be a cohesive, coherent whole paper. This means including identifiable introductions, body paragraphs and conclusions that together meet the minimum page requirements. The annotated bibliography entries do not need to have components that are as structurally-developed as the essay, but each entry should coherently provide a summary and the source’s usability.
- Analyze and interpret your sources rather than relying on summary to fill your essay. Leave the summarizing to your annotated bibliography so your argument can introduce, quote and analyze your sources as needed.
- Demonstrate careful editing to make your paper a polished product of multiple stages of revision.
- Follow the formatting conventions that are listed in the syllabus, and refer to Purdue OWL for any questions on MLA standards.

Strong essays will critically analyze different sides of the issue and carefully select appropriate quotes from texts to provide an insightful, lucid argument that matters. Your grade for this essay will also strongly reflect how well you revised early drafts to reflect feedback given.

TIPS TO CONSIDER FOR DRAFTING:
- Remember that having your own original stance means that even if you are working closely with a stance many already hold, you are using sources to agree with some difference or added insight. See “Yes/No/Okay, But” for more on this point.
- Finalizing your annotated bibliography before finalizing your argumentative points is highly recommended. These sources and the way you analyze them is important to how you frame your argument and stance.
- Review your notes from class discussions and your annotations on the readings. Consider the phrases or excerpts that stood out to you in these writings towards responding to the prompt.
- We have performed generative writings, and we have discussed many aspects of argumentation, including but not limited to rhetorical appeals, concessions, refutations, counter-arguments and debate. Review and reflect on how these terms can help you as you formulate your essays. You have already done “pre-
“drafting” work and created many ideas in your notes and Canvas responses. You are more than welcome to use these as a starting point for this essay.

- You may want to look back on your other essay to keep in mind some of the ways you’ve been asked to grow as a writer thus far.
- Revise. Revise. Revise. When you feel you have a solid draft, keep rereading your essay and its components to be on the lookout for errors, ways to better organize your thoughts, and places where you’ll need to transition from one source or one point to the next.
- Refer back to and reread Chapter 4 on “Written Argument” and Chapter 5 on “The Language of Argument – Definition” from Writing Logically, Thinking Critically. These chapters provide many excellent points about what a strong argument entails and must consider.

**DUE DATES:**

- Critical Response #3 – Annotated Bibliography: Thursday 3/28
- Mandatory Draft of 1200 Words or More Due for One-on-One Conferences: Tuesday 4/9
  - No formal class in lieu of one-on-one feedback with me or a trip to the DVC Writing Lab
- Mandatory Draft of 1500 Words or More for Peer Review: Thursday 4/11
- Mandatory Revised Draft of 1500 Words or More for Peer Review: Tuesday 4/16
  - Bring two copies for this final peer review session
- Final Submission: Due via TurnItIn on Canvas 30 minutes before class begins on Thursday 4/18