ENC 1101: Assignment #1
Social or Political Commentary
Topics for essay due: Wed. 1/19
Rough drafts due (outline and at least ½ complete, typed, 2 copies): Wed. 2/2
Final drafts due: Mon. 2/7

Objectives: to develop a better understanding of an issue/trend/situation and how it came about or affects a community, to form an opinion about the cause or effect, to select and arrange details appropriate to your analysis, to write in a voice appropriate to a specific audience, to conduct and integrate research through the library

Description of assignment:
Write a 3-4 page essay that offers commentary about a specific trend, situation, or event. A social commentary can take a lot of different forms, but for this assignment, your commentary should analyze what evidence you have observed of this trend, situation, issue, or event, why you think may have come about (causes), and what its effects are, have been, or will be. Your thesis should focus on arguing an opinion about this specific trend, situation, issue, or event. It should reveal whether you are surprised, disturbed, pleased, etc. by this specific trend, situation, issue, or event. You should include at least one secondary source (Internet) in this essay.

Steps of assignment:
1. Brainstorm a specific trend, situation, issue, or event to analyze.
   a) Analyze this specific trend, situation, issue, or event: brainstorm (1) where you have observed it, (2) why you think it came about, (3) what effects specifically it has had on people, (4) what communities or groups are involved with it, (4) and what you feel about it.
2. Type your top two favorite topics for analysis each as a noun phrase. Include a brief paragraph of where you have seen evidence of this topic and why you think it came about.
3. Research your issue.
4. Try to compose a working thesis. Your thesis should argue something insightful and meaningful about the specific trend, situation, issue, or event. Should people be surprised, disturbed, pleased, etc. by this specific trend, situation, or event?
5. Arrange details (Compose an outline)
6. Compose rough draft
7. Proofread and edit
8. Compose a final draft.

Some possible topics for social commentary may include: Dual-enrollment, Auto-tuned music, celebrity obsession, mobile devices as a device for everything, laptops' popularity, people getting married later, twenty-somethings living with their parents after college, the prevalence of comic book/super hero movies in the last few years, the use of Internet and text msg. writing infiltrating other kinds of writing, the surge in popularity of group video gaming/games: online gaming, WOW, Wii, Rock Band, etc., the decline of people reading books as a leisure activity, technology in the classroom, people's alienation from their food, tattoos not being just for bikers and rebels anymore, online everything, online news replacing newspapers, the emergence of indie movies and music, how satellite radio has changed regular radio, how Apple has made an impact on the way people live, young people's lack of interest in politics, the increase in volunteering, the sensationalizing of teenage pregnancy (16 and Pregnant), vampires, going green…

What to turn in (stapled in this order):
- A page that identifies your rhetorical context (subject, audience, purpose, occasion, and thesis)
- An outline (see sample outline in HB pg. 509)
- The final draft of your essay in MLA format
- This assignment sheet and grading rubric
- Your sources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Content /Organization</th>
<th>Diction</th>
<th>Grammar/ mechanics</th>
<th>Research and Documentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>refers to topic; thesis; order and focus of ideas; integrated and documented support; identifiable causes and effects</td>
<td>refers to using words appropriate to the audience and purpose; choosing words for deliberate effect</td>
<td>refers to sentence structure, spelling, word usage, grammar, punctuation, and ability to proofread</td>
<td>refers to integration of varied and credible research; uses current MLA citation style; avoids plagiarism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Specific, opinionated thesis; insightful, persuasive explanation of support; specific, reasonable references to causes/effects; consistent focus and graceful transitions</td>
<td>Compelling word choice; demonstrates insightful use of figurative language; objective, formal voice predominates; uses more informal language if/when appropriate</td>
<td>Demonstrates mastery of grammar, creating compelling prose; few to no errors; Sentences are carefully formed and positioned with attention to emphasis, rhythm and pace to engage the reader</td>
<td>Meaningful integration of varied, credible research; mastery of paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting; correct documentation; does not over/under use sources; discusses all references</td>
</tr>
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<td>Strong</td>
<td>Clear, opinionated thesis; persuasive explanation of support; logical progression of ideas; mostly specific references to causes/effects; smooth transitions</td>
<td>Specific, fresh word choice; uses metaphor and/or analogy; objective, formal voice predominates</td>
<td>Demonstrates understanding of most grammar; spell check errors remain; Sentences show variety in length, pattern, and rhythm</td>
<td>Clear integration of varied research using correct documentation; gracefully paraphrases, summarizes, quotes; correct documentation; does not over/under use sources; discusses references</td>
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<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Conventional, opinionated thesis; sometimes unclear explanation of support; some specific references to causes/effects; adequate transitions</td>
<td>Conventional word choice; mostly formal voice; occasional incorrect use of words</td>
<td>Occasional errors in sentence structure, verb agreement, pronoun reference, spelling and punctuation; Sentences show some variation in pattern</td>
<td>Integrates research where necessary; documentation has few errors; does not under/over use sources; discusses most references</td>
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<td>Limited</td>
<td>Thesis unclear and/or not opinionated; unclear support; inconsistent organization of causes/effects; transitions often do not connect ideas; does not meet page count</td>
<td>Vague, ordinary, and/or incorrect word choice with clichés and/or wordiness; informal or pretentious voice prominent</td>
<td>Frequent errors in sentence structure, verb agreement, pronoun reference, spelling and punctuation; Simple sentences are frequent with occasional fused sentences and fragments</td>
<td>Weak integration of research; little attention to other perspectives; multiple errors in documentation; over/under uses sources</td>
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<td>Flawed</td>
<td>No identifiable thesis; no meaningful discussion of cause/effects; no control of organization and/or transitions; doesn’t meet page count</td>
<td>Word choice doesn’t fit audience or purpose; informal voice and/or wordiness predominates</td>
<td>Continuous errors in sentence structure, verb agreement, pronoun reference, spelling and punctuation</td>
<td>Poor use of documentation; questionable plagiarism; no attention to research</td>
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