Essay #1 Prompt**:**Using any **two** of the articles we read and discussed as a class, identify the author’s project, argument, claim, evidence, and strategies. Analyze and evaluate the extent to which evidence, reasoning, and strategies effectively supports the argument and claims being made for each author’s specific audience.

# Requirements: *[20 points]*

* MLA formatting (See the Purdue Owl website for a sample of a properly formatted MLA paper)
* MLA style reference page, on a separate piece of paper (See the Purdue Owl website for an example)
* 5-8 pages (Not including the reference page)

**Organization/Grammar/ Flow: [20 points]**

How to Structure Essay #1

Part 1. Introduction (1-2 paragraphs) ***[40 points]***

1. Hook-begin with a hook to draw the reader in and make them want to read more of your paper.
2. Introduce and contextualize each author’s text. Explain the rhetorical situation (the author, context, purpose, genre, audience). What is the author’s project? (What sort of work does he/she set out to do, how, and why?)
3. Describe the author’s main argument - what is he trying to get us to believe?
4. Thesis Statement: State the direction of your analysis and the steps you will take to get us there (“metadiscourse.”)

## Part 2. The Body (3-4 paragraphs) *[80 Points]*

In this section, you will analyze two or three major claims that support each author’s argument. Make sure you have a clear topic sentence, clear transitional words, phrases, and sentences (relying heavily on meta-language) and a transition to the next paragraph.

Things to discuss in these body paragraphs:

* Identify the claim in your own words.
* Use a quotation to illustrate this claim. Introduce, integrate and explain the quotation.
* Identify the evidence the author presents to support this claim (if present/relevant) and analyze its effectiveness for the author’s intended audience.
* Critically discuss the strategies and assumptions the author makes, and discuss relative effectiveness (strengths and weaknesses) for his/her particular audience.
* Discuss the organization of the text—explaining how and why the author structured his/her claims, strategies and evidence.
* Discuss the relative effectiveness (strengths and weaknesses) for his/her specific audience.

## Part 3: The Conclusion (1-3 paragraphs) *[20 points]*

In this section, you will discuss issues of significance or effectiveness. There are several things you can choose to emphasize in this section.

* Restate your thesis and cover the main points of your paper.
* Answer the “So What?” What is the significance of the argument – why does it matter (at this moment/to you/in general)?
* Has the author impacted your thinking/views on this topic? If so, in what way?
* Consider the effectiveness of the argument – focus on a key strength or weaknesses
* You may discuss which text did a better job arguing their points to their audience.

**Flow/Organization/Layout of Your Essay: *[20 points]***

* Papers should: use transitional phrasing & words, use key rhetorical terms, express clear thoughts and ideas that are easy for the audience to comprehend and follow, build logical arguments, be free of excessive grammatical errors, have an overall polished sound.

*Remember to focus on the text’s argument and how it is constructed, not merely what it is about. Write the paper as if you are addressing an audience that has not read the text, and thus requires that you “spell things out.” Proofread your work carefully, and revise, revise, revise.*