**Project III Source Essay 15%**

EN 101 classes focus on a large topic in the D.C. metro area, like immigration or the arts or the environment. Students will choose to investigate a more narrow topic within the larger course focus

**Overview and Purpose of Assignment**  
For the remainder of the semester, you will be developing and completing a research project on a topic that corresponds with the course theme. This project will have several components including the Source Essay. I will assess your ability to develop a research plan on a narrow topic of your choice as well as your ability to choose, read, and evaluate appropriate sources. Thus, you will continue to practice the summary and paraphrase skills that you worked on in the beginning of the semester. You will also improve your ability to use the internet and the library’s resources to locate secondary sources that are rich and credible.

You can think of your source essay as a documentation of the research process you will use in future courses (and for life!). It will also serve as a kind of proposal for the research and ideas you will incorporate into the final paper for this course, the Public Project essay (15% of your final grade).

**Objectives and Outcomes for Research Project and Source Essay:**

* To create and implement a research plan.
* To practice using MLA citation style and formatting techniques.
* To practice source literacy and applicability
* Develop a pre-research and research strategy that focuses the scope of a research project
* Become familiar with library databases
* Effectively gather internet research, identifying the author and publisher of online material and evaluating the hosting site of that material as well as the material itself
* Collect, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize information from a variety of valid and relevant sources, which can include field research
* Adequately paraphrase and quote source material while documenting all research accurately using MLA citation style

**Instructions**  
For this assignment, you will be tasked with locating, reading, and evaluating sources. You will also meditate on and draft a reflection of your research process.

1) First you will locate 5 decent sources on your topic during and after two library research days, one where you use the internet and one where you use library databases. The sources you locate should be examples of public writing, similar to the kinds of articles we have been reading in class. Try to choose a variety of sources for how they help you learn about your topic and the problems associated with it. These sources might include newspaper articles, magazine articles, government sponsored studies, or even an individual chapter in a book. You may choose a website or blog post from a credible source. Locate each source by using the internet or a library database. You will spend enough time with these sources to write a 1-3 sentence overview of them (This source is about …). You will be evaluated on whether these articles are substantial, credible, and on the same narrowed topic..

2) Then you will choose the 3 sources on which to focus in your Source Evaluation Essay. As you decide which sources to focus on, ask yourself the following questions:  
Are they “meaty” or substantial

* in length and perspectives (such as a feature article in a newspaper or magazine) or
* in breadth or depth of research (such as a government report)
* In depth of research (such as a newspaper expose)

Do they meet the evaluative criteria discussed in class (published by a disinterested, relatively unbiased publisher, vetted in some way, recent)  
Are they on same narrowed topic as other two sources

3) Read each of your 3 best sources at least one time. Knowing these sources well will prepare you for Project IV. Revise the 1-3 sentence overview you wrote for this source. Make sure it captures the thesis and purpose of the whole article or source.

Then for each source, you will write one good-sized paragraph that describes what kind of source it is and considers its rhetorical situation—audience, publication venue, author. To write this paragraph, you will need to know what kind of publication the source came from (a news magazine for general readers; a trade journal for practicing nurses; a website aimed at cancer patients). Be sure you answer the following questions: who is the author (and what qualifications does the author have); who published the source; what is the purpose of this publishing venue; what biases or slants might be connected to this purpose; and, most importantly, who is the audience of this publication venue (and hence the audience of the article). This paragraph on rhetorical context may also consider the conversations in which the source is engaged; the main types of evidence the source employs (research studies, first-hand accounts, etc.); the stylistic and genre conventions of the source; the ways the author accommodates or appeals to his/her audience.

4) Write the Source Essay (see checklist below for what to include).

**Checklist for Source Essay:**  
In general, the format for this assignment is up to you. For example, you may use section or subject headings to help your reader navigate between the overview, your research process, and your source analyses. The following components are required.

• The first two paragraphs should contain an overview of the topic—cite and quote from your sources when necessary—and your interests in the topic.

• A third paragraph will describe your research process. What search terms did you use? What worked and how did you change your plan based upon your initial searches? Did you need to narrow or broaden your topic?

• Much of the essay will be the write-up and analysis of your sources (#3 above).

• Include a conclusion paragraph that draws connections among the sources telling me how they work together to give you a better sense of your final paper topic. What kinds of sources might you still need to locate? What gaps in knowledge about your topic exist that future research could fill?

• Your paper must have a bibliography page for the five sources, which will constitute both the works you have referred to in your essay and a brief bibliography on your topic. The bibliography page will appear at the end of the assignment. It is here that you will include the sentences for all 3-5 sources (see #1 above).

Note: The length of the assignment is flexible, but the total number of pages should be no less than 3.

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**Grading Criteria**

**Most of the grade for the Source Essay (90 points out of 100) will be based on the quality of the three sources and the quality of your summary and explanation of rhetorical context for each of your best three sources.**

**Source 1**

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* The source is “meaty” or substantial
* in length and perspectives (such as a feature article in a newspaper or magazine) or
* in breadth or depth of research (such as a government report)
* In depth of research (such as a newspaper expose)
* It meets the evaluative criteria discussed in class (published by a disinterested, relatively unbiased publisher, vetted in some way, recent)
* It is on same narrowed topic as other sources in annotated bibliography

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* The write-up of the source captures the thesis and purpose of the source. Remember to paraphrase accurately and ethically and not to over quote.  
  It correctly describes the rhetorical context of the source
* who is the author (and what qualifications does the author have)
* who published the source; what is the purpose of this publishing venue; what biases or slants might be connected to this purpose; and, most importantly, who is the audience of this publication venue (and thus the audience of the source)
* in what conversations is the source engaged
* what types of evidence does the source employs (research studies, first-hand accounts, etc.)
* what the stylistic and genre conventions does the source employ
* how does the author accommodates or appeal to his/her audience.
* There is a citation for the source in MLA format.

**Source 2**

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* The source is “meaty” or substantial
* in length and perspectives (such as a feature article in a newspaper or magazine) or
* in breadth or depth of research (such as a government report)
* In depth of research (such as a newspaper expose)
* It meets the evaluative criteria discussed in class (published by a disinterested, relatively unbiased publisher, vetted in some way, recent)
* It is on same narrowed topic as other sources in annotated bibliography

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* The write-up of the source captures the thesis and purpose of the source. Remember to paraphrase accurately and ethically and not to over quote.  
  It correctly describes the rhetorical context of the source
* who is the author (and what qualifications does the author have)
* who published the source; what is the purpose of this publishing venue; what biases or slants might be connected to this purpose; and, most importantly, who is the audience of this publication venue (and thus the audience of the source)
* in what conversations is the source engaged
* what types of evidence does the source employs (research studies, first-hand accounts, etc.)
* what the stylistic and genre conventions does the source employ
* how does the author accommodates or appeal to his/her audience.
* There is a citation for the source in MLA format.

**Source 3**

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* The source is “meaty” or substantial
* in length and perspectives (such as a feature article in a newspaper or magazine) or
* in breadth or depth of research (such as a government report)
* In depth of research (such as a newspaper expose)
* It meets the evaluative criteria discussed in class (published by a disinterested, relatively unbiased publisher, vetted in some way, recent)
* It is on same narrowed topic as other sources in annotated bibliography

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* The write-up of the source captures the thesis and purpose of the source. Remember to paraphrase accurately and ethically and not to over quote.  
  It correctly describes the rhetorical context of the source
* who is the author (and what qualifications does the author have)
* who published the source; what is the purpose of this publishing venue; what biases or slants might be connected to this purpose; and, most importantly, who is the audience of this publication venue (and thus the audience of the source)
* in what conversations is the source engaged
* what types of evidence does the source employs (research studies, first-hand accounts, etc.)
* what the stylistic and genre conventions does the source employ
* how does the author accommodates or appeal to his/her audience.
* There is a citation for the source in MLA format.

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* Includes a well-written overview, description of research process, and conclusion.
* Incudes a bibliography with 5 sources, each of which has a 1-3 sentence description.