Using at least one text we have encountered in class, this assignment will consider a debatable topic, consider the viewpoints and conversations surrounding that topic, take a stance, and support it with evidence. While you can pick your topic, it must relate to topics that are related to our course materials. This might include questions of (post)colonial authorship, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and much more. You are more than welcome to connect the themes from this class to your major field of study or another topic of interest, so long as your argument clearly is in conversation with something we have addressed in the course.

In this well-developed essay, you must closely analyze at least **one text from the course** in order to make your argument, and you must use at least **two scholarly secondary sources from outside the assigned reading** to support this argument. If you use the same source as your secondary source review, you may carry over key points from this assignment in order to add to any of the specific evidence used to prove your point. Please note that if you utilize key points from your previous assignment, they must be clearly adjusted to fit the scope of this specific argument. This assignment will require at least one multi-modal element that connects to your argument’s point. Before writing the paper, you will meet with me in a short conference to discuss your topic and give you a chance to ask questions.

**Part 1: Abstract and Annotated Bibliography**

Writing an annotated bibliography is a good way to enter a conversation on a topic and see what people have already said about it. Once you’ve seen what other scholars have said, you can take a nuanced position within the discussion. Your sources can be secondary articles discussing the primary text(s) you wish to discuss, but they can also be theoretical texts that you wish to apply to as a lens to analyze your primary text(s).

**Your Abstract and Annotated Bibliography must:**

* Have an abstract that is between **250 and 300 words**, and it should **highlight your point of inquiry into the topic and explain how you intend to investigate your topic.** You do not need to have a thesis yet, but your abstract should highlight a methodology that explains how you intend to strive towards a thesis.
* Have **three sources total** in which you give a one-paragraph explanation for each source that summarizes it and states how it’s relevant to your interest in the topic. At least **two of these sources** must be from outside of class content.
* Be in MLA format.

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| * **The Abstract and Annotated Bibliography is due on Wednesday, April 13 by the end of the day.** * **Upload the file to Canvas.** * **We will use your Abstract and Annotated Bibliography to guide our conferences the week of April 18th and 20th.** * **Conferences: You will only meet with me for the time of our conference; class does not meet this week. Sign-ups will be provided the week of April 11th and 13th.** |

**Part 2: Research-Based Argument**

After becoming informed on the issue from your Abstract and Annotated Bibliography, take a position on your topic. You’ll then support your stance it in a well-developed essay. For this assignment, you must closely analyze at least one text from the course to support your argument. The final product will be posted as a page to your blog and must include at least one multi-modal element.

**Things to consider:**

* What has already been said about this topic? Where do you stand within conversations surrounding the topic?
* How does your topic address course themes? What sort of point are you making about a topic that has been addressed in something we read?
* Who is your audience? What elements of your argument will be supported and refuted by your audience? What counterarguments do you need to consider?
* What approach are you taking towards your topic and towards the texts you’re analyzing? How will you explain any concepts, approaches to analysis, or theoretical lenses to help your readers understand your stance?

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| **The final essay must have:** |
| * A clear **thesis** that states your position on the topic and is well-supported throughout the essay. * A **developed organizational structure**, along with **evidence** and **analysis** to support your position. * An additional element to support your point in a mode other than alphanumeric text, making your text **multi-modal**. * Research-based sources to support your point: at least **one source** must come from course readings and at **least two scholarly sources** must come from outside of class. * A consideration and refutation of at least one potential **counterargument**. * The final product to be posted on your web domain as a **page**. * A creative **title**. * A length of **1250 words minimum**, with any necessary citations in MLA, Chicago style, or the acceptable alternative format for multi-modal sources. |

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| **April 18 and 20: Conferences; meet only for your 10 min time slot.**  **April 25: Peer review; bring two copies, printed of your essay rough draft to class.**  **May 4: Final essay is due by the end of the day, posted as a page to your website.** |