**Op-Ed Analysis Assignment - Argument**

**AP English Language and Composition 2017-2018**

To write effective essays in this class, you will need to be aware of current events and have an opinion about those events. This op-ed assignment helps you to become more informed, to practice the skill of argument analysis, and to apply awareness of rhetorical strategies to the reading of contemporary prose.

For each analysis, you will need to choose one of the two op-ed (opinion/editorial) articles linked on kollarc.weebly.com. These articles have been chosen for their timeliness, their appropriateness to the form, and the reputability of their publications. Choose the article that interests you the most or from which you have the most to gain.

**Assignment Goals:**

* Develop awareness of current events
* Analyze argumentative structure, evidence, and logical inconsistencies
* Improve ability to identify and analyze rhetorical situation, including audience(s), purpose(s), topic, and context
* Increase familiarity with and fluency in rhetorical strategies
* Evaluate the effectiveness of an argument

**Assignment Procedure:**

Print out your selected article and do a close reading (or several) of it. Mark (annotate) directly on the text as you go. Your annotations should focus on the different elements of argument, the appeals the author makes, the significant language and evidence, etc. You must submit a hard copy with your close readings on it to me. Your analysis (the written portion described below) must be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Analysis Format:**

Once you have close read your article and think you have a robust understanding of it, you will type up a guided, scheduled analysis of it in the order listed below. Number each item just the way they are here.

1. MLA works cited reference for your article. (See <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for MLA assistance)
2. Local, National, or Global Context: In one sentence, describe the article’s geographic relevance and explain the specific category of the article’s content. In other words, state whether the article concerns history, sociology, psychology, politics, education, science, sports, health, business, economics, entertainment, or some other area of interest, and identify whether the scope of the issue’s effect is local, state-wide, national, or global.
3. Identify the central claim of the article, again basing your answer in (and even quoting directly from) the text.
4. Identify the three most important pieces of evidence the author uses to support his/her claim in one paragraph. Then, in another paragraph, indicate whether the article relies most heavily on an emotional appeal, a logical appeal, or an appeal based on the strength of the author’s character. Finally, write a paragraph that explains any concessions the author makes to the opposing viewpoint and/or any fallacies that inhibit the argument.
5. Write a one-page evaluation of the opinion-editorial’s overall effectiveness. A thorough evaluation will answer these two questions: How does the author’s rhetoric support his or her argument? What made those choices so effective? Explain your reasoning.