Essay 3: Joining the Conversation | Due: Outline - Nov. 6, Draft - Nov. 13, Final Draft - Nov. 20

Goal:
The goal of this assignment is to develop your own understanding and argument regarding a topic based on thorough research and through the careful analysis and synthesis of multiple sources.

Assignment:
Francis Bacon said, "Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly." Your assignment is to write an essay arguing to "designedly" alter things for the better. **You will come up with an argument/claim for a specific public policy change to a local or familiar situation, organization, procedure, or statute related to your topic. This claim should be supported by relevant and credible research that you must analyze, evaluate, and synthesize multiple reliable sources to support your claim.**

As a follow up to the previous assignments, you will be crafting a new argument proposing a solution to a local problem related to your topic. Compose a persuasive essay in which you position yourself (and your argument) within a conversation related to the issue you began researching in Exercise 1. You may incorporate sources from previous papers but should introduce at least two new sources into your essay.

The final essay should do the following, in **6-7 double-spaced pages** (12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins on all sides, no extra space between paragraphs, no superfluous spacing)**:**

- Include an introduction that frames and defines the scope of your essay;
- Articulate and develop a clear and compelling thesis statement that argues for the adoption of (or change to) a local or familiar situation, organization, procedure, or statute related to your topic;
- Position your argument within a recognizable conversation;
- Help your audience understand the stakes involved in the issue and establish exigency;
- Persuade you audience to accept your claim by grounding your arguments (and counterarguments) in the sources you have selected and supported by evidence from them;
- Use between **5 and 8 credible/reputable sources** to compose persuasive body paragraphs;
- Properly and accurately cite all resources used in the paper using an appropriate citation style.

Invention and Inquiry:
You will be building on the work and research you've been doing all semester in search of an answer to your **Big Question**. In preparing this assignment, identify a local situation related to the public issue (derived from your Big Question) you have been investigating that you think could be improved. Identify the core problem that necessitates a change. Gather together the resources you have developed over the semester and consider where you stand with respect to the core problem and competing perspectives represented in the conversation. You should analyze, evaluate, and synthesize multiple reliable sources to develop a claim.

Some questions to consider as you research the problem and develop a solution:

- What's the issue/problem?
- Why is this a problem?
- Why does it need to be "fixed"?
- Why does it need to be fixed now (exigency)?
- How might the argument and research you've done before offer a solution (or solutions)?
- Why is yours the best solution?
- What are alternative solutions?
- Has your solution been proposed before in this local situation? Why or why not?
- Have other solutions been attempted/proposed?
- What are the restrictions/limitations (cultural, financial, ethical, political, ideological, etc.) exist in the local situation that you need to address?
- Who can make this change happen?
- What kinds of evidence would convince them?

- What would be required to implement your solution?

Draft a thesis statement in which you position yourself within the conversation and propose a solution to the local problem you identified. Your thesis statement should be a concrete proposal supported by compelling reasons to accept that proposal. Your argument doesn't have to be a direct answer to your Big Question (although it could!), but it should help move us closer to that answer. **Remember that your argument emerges from your research, not the other way around!**

Your original claim should be founded in the arguments (or counterarguments) of the sources you have selected and supported by evidence from those sources. **As you develop your own stance, keep track of the key pieces of evidence that you will use to support your claim**—keep notes of where information comes from, key words/ideas/quotes/data you want to use, and citations as you go.

Audience and Tone:
This is an academic paper, so it should be written using professional and authoritative language to present your findings. Your tone should be formal and informative. Your audience are those who can help make this change happen, which will depend on your topic, but you should assume that it will comprise professionals and/or academics.

If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, I encourage you to e-mail me or come see me during my office hours. Also consider visiting the Miller Writing Center for help.