Essay #3

#Feature

**Overview**

During the second half of the semester you will have the opportunity to put to work what you have learned in your reading and writing thus far by composing a feature article for a newspaper or magazine. We will discuss in class the various components of feature articles and the differences between those that appear in newspapers and magazines. You will compose one article for either a newspaper or a magazine. We will research publications in class to help you model your features for specific venues. Beyond these conventions, what you choose to write about is up to you. 

Throughout the semester you will read a variety of features which will help you learn what topics are conceivable for strong feature articles. Keep in mind that you may choose, although it is not a requirement of this course, to submit your work to a magazine or newspaper for publication. This is not an unreachable goal for a college student. Therefore, apply the skills you learn in class to your compositions and choose interesting and reader friendly topics for each of your features.

Given the current situation of social distancing and stay at home orders in our society there is no possibility to go out into the physical world to complete this assignment. However, that does not mean we cannot exercise what we have learned about journalistic essay writing. What I would like you to do is follow a hashtag on social media or other internet forums and track what people are saying about it over the next few weeks. This will become your data and observations for your feature. You can then reach out to some friends, family, etc. to interview them on the subject. For example, maybe you are interested in how this situation is impacting k-12 education. Follow the hashtag #remotelearning, Or maybe you are worried about food shortages. #endhunger. Whatever your thing is. What **I do not want you** to do is a bunch of academic journal research. **That is not what this is. S**tick to peoples thoughts, actions, and ideas.

You can choose to write for either a newspaper or magazine. Additionally, you must do some research and figure out what publications you want to model each after. You will write about this when you turn in each feature.

Be creative. Design your essays to look like they would in the actual newspaper or magazine you would want them published in. Use images, think about layout, formatting, and color.

**Details:**

* Follow the basic tenets of journalism
* Only include original reporting and writing
* Be truthful and accurate
* Be between 4-6 pages each
* Be in a narrative non-fiction style
* Make use of multiple secondary sources and interviews/observations from data collected
* Fall into one of the categories of feature articles discussed in class
* Include at least one image
* Include one paragraph on a separate page that explains what publication it is modeled for and how you have tailored it specifically for that publication.

See syllabus for due dates

How I will Evaluate Your Essay

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your essay draft. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your essay draft will determine 10% of your final grade for each one, 40% total.

**In order to earn a "B" grade for that 10%**

* You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
* Respond to the prompt.
* Write an essay that is at least four pages. It can be over. It can't be under.
* Use interview and secondary sources.
* Use at least one image that is related to the essay subject.

**In order to earn an "A" grade for that 10%**

* You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
* Respond to the prompt in depth showcasing the skills learned in class.
* Write an essay that is at between four to six pages. It can't be under.
* Use interview and secondary sources effectively
* Use images that are related to the essay subject.

**In order to earn a "C" grade for that 10%**

* You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
* Respond to the prompt but not fully.
* Write an essay that is less than four pages.
* Use interview and/or secondary source but not enough to develop the essay.
* Uses no images that are related to the essay subject.

If you do not meet the requirements for a “C” paper, you will fail the paper for that 10% of your grade.