**Rhetorical Analysis of Current Events**

In our ongoing efforts to make you smarter, improve your reading skills, and force you to expand your views of the world, we will be requiring you to read the news. You will become more informed; you will increase your vocabulary; and you will learn to read critically. With that said, a piece of the AP puzzle this year will ask you all to choose an editorial, column, speech, or blog post of particular merit, write a rhetorical analysis of the material, and lead the class in a discussion of the material. This assignment will be one element of what we will accomplish the first semester.

**The process:**

1. Think critically when we discuss the news in class. Pay attention to the strategies Mr. Neden uses to discuss current events.
2. Sign up for a day to present.
3. Listen, read, and think about the world around you. Visit websites and publications of reputable merit. Suggestions include:
	1. <http://ideas.time.com/>
	2. <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/opinion/index.html>
	3. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/the-blog/>
	4. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/>
	5. <http://www.theonion.com/>
	6. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions>

You’ll notice that many of the sites linked above are opinion pages. This is key to the assignment; here you are asked to look explicitly at opinion and commentary. As the reader please approach the author’s words critically and examine how the argument is structured: is it superior or flawed?

1. Choose a timely article for your presentation.
2. Compose an analysis paper. This paper should be 2 typed pages in length and speak directly to the rhetorical techniques the author uses to convey their opinion. For more tips please visit this site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/625/1/>
3. Make copies of your article. Mr. Neden is happy to do this for you. If you choose an article from the NY Times, they don’t allow you to print. Email the link to Mr. Neden, he will do it for you (he has a digital subscription).
4. Be prepared for your presentation.
	1. On this day you will:
		1. Distribute copies of your article to the class.
		2. Read it aloud with the group.
		3. Pause for clarity throughout to discuss terms or pertinent background information. Clarifying what your classmates need to know is important.
		4. Following the initial discussion, ask your peers to write their thoughts in regards to the article.
		5. Lead a discussion using any essential questions you have generated.
		6. Celebrate your success.
		7. Turn in your paper with an annotated copy of the article.

Your in-class presentation (including the read aloud and discussion) should be about 45m in length. Please try to find material that is about 3 printed pages in length. If you want to use a text that is longer, please plan on discussing the essential elements; condense the sections we do not need and get to the important tenets.