**Paper 2: Responding to a Written Argument**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to give you practice with a common form of academic writing: responding to written arguments.

**Paper Topic:**

*You may choose among 2 options:*

1. You could write about a reading from this class.
2. You could write about a newspaper or magazine article (print or online). If you choose your own reading, make sure that it makes an argument about an issue (rather than just giving a description). If you choose a reading from outside this class, you will need to give me a copy of the reading with the first draft of your paper. Please do not choose a reading longer than a few pages.

**Guidelines for Writing Your Paper:**

1. First carefully read the material that you have chosen and make sure you understand it. What are the main ideas from the reading? What is the author’s argument? What support does the author give for his/her argument?
2. Underline important parts of the reading, and take notes about ideas that you could write about.
3. Brainstorm and freewrite about how you will respond to the author’s argument. Which of the author’s points are convincing or unconvincing? Do you agree, disagree, or take a mixed position? Why?
4. After you have taken notes and done a lot of freewriting about your response to the reading, you can begin to organize your writing into a draft. How will you structure your paper?
5. Whenever you copy exact words from the reading, be sure to put them in “quotation marks” and to give the page number where you found the quotation (if applicable). Write a bibliography with only one reference (the source text) in MLA, APA, or Chicago style.

**Due Dates for Paper 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Draft due

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Final copy due

*Your paper should be 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced.*

*Times New Roman or Arial, Size 12 font*