Essay #2: Is Your Community Healthy?

Due Dates:

- Rough Draft #1 (10 pts)        Thurs. Oct. 5th
- Rough Draft #2 + Peer Review (10 pts) Thurs. Oct. 12th
- Final Essay (150 pts)          Tue. Oct. 17th
- Presentations (20 pts)         Tue. Oct 17th & Thurs. Oct. 19th

Assignment

In a 5-7 page, MLA-format essay, use research to help you answer the question, “Is your community healthy? Why or why not?” Make an argument that evaluates the state of your community’s health, and support it with evidence and research.

In this essay you will need to:

- Identify your community: Is it defined by a geographic location or by a shared set of experiences, perspectives, or beliefs?
- Explain your relationship with your community. How did you become a part of this community? For how long have you been a member?
- Educate the reader: What do we need to know about your community in order to understand it and its current situation?
- Explain how you are defining “health:” is it emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual? Do these overlap in any way?
- Investigate the history of your community: How did it come to arrive at this state?

Requirements

- 5 minimum sources cited in-text throughout the essay and compiled in a “Works Cited” page (not part of the final page count).
  - 3 must be academic
- A 5 minute presentation to the class educating them about your community and your argument, supported with visuals.
Instructions

- All Drafts and the Final Essay should be uploaded to Canvas by the start of class on the respective due dates. Bring your laptop or a printed copy (preferred) of your rough drafts to class on workshop days.
- Print a copy of your Final Essay to turn in with your Peer Review materials in class on 10/17.

Tips

- You are again encouraged to use “I” in this essay--it is, afterall, an essay about your perspective on your community.
- The strongest arguments are supported by a variety of evidence--think about how you can use periodicals, social media, and interviews to support your argument.
- Librarians are your friends and best not-so-secret weapon for writing a research paper. Please visit the library and seek out a librarian’s help. Even if you aren’t having trouble finding sources, they can help you determine which might be stronger to use and point you in new directions you never would have discovered otherwise!
- Remember the characteristics of effective essays we’ve discussed in class:
  - An intro that hooks the reader
  - Appropriate description
  - A strong through-line
  - Transitions between ideas
  - Answers questions from prompt
  - Shows author has invested time & energy
  - Has an effect on the reader
  - Has a conclusion that ties everything together
  - Has been checked for grammar and mechanics