Essay #2: Is Your Community Healthy?

Due Dates:
Rough Draft #1 (10 pts)  
Tues. March 6th 
Rough Draft #2 + Peer Review (10 pts) 
Thurs. March 15th 
Final Essay (150 pts) 
Tues. March 27th 
Presentations (25 pts) 
Tues & Thurs. March 27th & 29th 

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, whether it be physical, mental, or spiritual, and support it with evidence and research.

Your essay should start with an introduction that starts broad and “hooks,” or grabs the reader's attention. At the end of the introduction, present a thesis statement that will act as a “roadmap” for the rest of the essay and makes clear your answer to the question.

In this essay you will need to:

- Educate the reader: What do we need to know about your community in order to understand it and its current state of health? Are there any misconceptions about your community?
- 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? Describe what it’s like to be a member of this community.
- Explain how you are defining “health:” is it emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual? How might these overlap?
- Investigate the history of your community: How did it come to arrive at this state? What historical, social, or cultural events have impacted your community?
- Make clear the significance, or “so what” of your argument. Why should any of us care about your argument?
Requirements

- 5 minimum sources, cited in-text throughout the essay and compiled in a “Works Cited” page (not part of the final page count).
  - 2 must be academic (peer-reviewed, academic journals)
- A 3-5 minute presentation to the class educating us about your community and stating 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 the Final due date.

Tips

- You are again encouraged to use “I” in this essay--it is, after all, 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. Even if you aren’t having trouble finding sources, a librarian can help you determine which source might be stronger to use and point you in new directions you never would have discovered otherwise!