The Application and Analysis Essay is a thesis-driven research paper, which is academic in purpose and scholarly in tone. The essay will be based on using a lens (another author’s writing) to analyze an artifact (a work of literature, film, music, television, theater, art, or culture). The lens should have ideas, arguments, theories, models, or frameworks that can be applied or used to analyze the cultural myths embedded in the artifact. In particular, try to discuss both the obvious and hidden messages about the artifact because the purpose of the lens is to help you find deeper meanings in the artifact that others might overlook with a casual interpretation.

Bring three printed copies of your essay to class on Wednesday, May 9th for peer review (25 points). The due date for the Application and Analysis Essay is Wednesday, May 16th at 11:59 PM in Canvas (100 points).

Grading Rubric:
* Essay has a captivating title related to the topic or subject of the essay. (“Application and Analysis Essay,” “Rough Draft,” and “Untitled” are not captivating titles.)

* Essay has an introduction where you identify, summarize, and explain your lens and artifact as well as provide a thesis. Hint: The introduction may be two separate paragraphs with a thesis statement at the end of the second paragraph.

* Essay has body paragraphs that support the thesis with specific evidence and examples from the lens and the artifact. In particular, try to use the lens to reveal specific insights about the artifact.

* Essay has a conclusion where you restate your main argument and supporting points.

* Essay uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

* Essay includes at least three outside sources of information from peer-reviewed, scholarly, or journalistic publications (including *Rereading America*).

* Essay has a Works Cited page (including citations for *Rereading America*).

* Essay is typed, double spaced, written with a 12-point font (Times New Roman or similar), submitted to Canvas (preferably as a Microsoft Word [.docx, .doc, .rtf] document), and formatted using MLA guidelines. Consult with me, the MiraCosta College Writing Center, MiraCosta Library pamphlet, or Purdue OWL website for help with MLA formatting.
Choose one of the following options.

**Option #1**
Lens: “Framing Class, Vicarious Living, and Conspicuous Consumption” (pages 314-332) by Diana Kendall
Artifact: “Looking for Work” (pages 22-26) by Gary Soto

Question: Use Kendall’s “Framing Class” as the lens text and Soto’s “Looking for Work” as the artifact to write an argumentative essay that answers the following question: What types of messages are children given about the ideal family through television? What are the effects of those messages on children?

Tips: To help you develop your analysis, consider some of Kendall’s key ideas.
What is “vicarious living?”
What is the “performance of class?”
What is a “media frame?”

**Option #2**
Lens: “Against School” (pages 141-151) by John Taylor Gatto
Artifact: “Learning to Read” (pages 189-195) by Malcolm X

Question: Use Gatto’s “Against School” as the lens text and Malcolm X’s “Learning to Read” as the artifact to write an argumentative essay that answers the following question: What are the most significant cultural myths about education that Gatto reveals in “Learning to Read?”

Tips: To help you develop your analysis, consider some of Gatto’s key ideas.

**Option #3**
Lens: “Causes of Prejudice” (pages 504-517) by Vincent Parillo
Artifact: “From Underground Undergrads” (pages 229-238) by UCLA Center for Labor Studies

Question: Use Parillo’s “Causes of Prejudice” as the lens text and UCLA Center for Labor Studies’ “From Underground Undergrads” as the artifact to write an argumentative essay that answers the following question: Which type(s) of prejudice most affect “Dreamers” or undocumented college students? Why?

**Option #4**
Lens: Your choice from Rereading America
Artifact: Your choice (with the instructor’s approval).

Question: Use your lens article from Rereading America to analyze an artifact of your own choosing. What does your lens reveal about the cultural myths embedded in your artifact?

Tips: To help develop your analysis, consider some of the factors involved with cultural myths concerning family, education, money and success, gender, and ethnicity.