**Assignment 3: The Bibliographic Essay**

For this assignment, you will write a 7 – 10 page essay (1,750 – 2,500 words) to inform your readers about the variety of viewpoints related to the topic you choose to write about. You ***may*** choose your topic from the four sections of the “Readings” section of *They Say, I Say*. In other words, if you choose this option, your sources will come from one of the following chapters:

* “Is Fast Food the New Tobacco?”
* “Are *24*, *Family Guy*, and *Grand Theft Auto* Actually Good for You?”
* “Is Economic Mobility Just a Dream?”
* “Is America Over?”

If you decide you would rather write about a topic not contained in one of these chapters, you may do so but only after having it approved by me. In order for me to approve your topic selection, you will need to write a 250 word topic proposal. Within that topic proposal you will need to explain why you are choosing to write about that particular topic and you will need to provide me with a list of credible sources that you will use to complete Assignment 3 on your chosen topic.

The purpose of a bibliographic essay is *not* to take a side in a debate but to explore as many different sides of the issue as you can. In other words, your essay should answer the question, “what are the issues relevant to the topic I am writing about?” More often than not, this question is answered by the articles in each section of *They Say, I Say* or the articles you will find by doing your own independent research.

Your essay needs to draw on 7 – 10 credible sources (either articles from your topic section in *They Say, I Say* or sources pertaining to your topic). You should be able to summarize the main points of each source you are using and paraphrase when necessary to better explain the author’s stance on your particular topic. **No more than 10% of your essay should consist of quotes from your sources**.

Your essay should have 1” margins all around, using a 12 point font, and should be double spaced.