**Assignment 2: The Rhetorical Analysis**

Select one editorial from the group of reading provided in the “Readings” section of *They Say, I Say* or on Blackboard, and write a 4-6 page (1,000-1,500 words) essay in which you analyze and evaluate the author’s rhetoric. In other words, you will be evaluating how well the author argues his or her case. Although you may point out both positive and negative aspects of the author’s rhetoric, you must make some overall judgment about the piece’s effectiveness.

Don’t assume that your readers have read the essay to which you are responding. By this, I mean that you will need to provide a summary of the essay you chose in the beginning of your own essay.

Things to keep in mind for this assignment:

1. Select your editorial carefully. Choose one with details you can easily identify and write about. Make sure you understand what the author is arguing in his or her editorial. Also make sure that you find the editorial interesting.
2. You will need to support your claim (i.e. that the author’s rhetoric is sound or unsound) with specific examples from the text. You may get a very clear feeling about the tone and authority of the text, but you *must* be able to pinpoint where and how you got that feeling and why you think it is successful or unsuccessful in persuading the intended audience.
3. Remember that you, yourself, are making an argument – you should have a strong thesis that focuses on what you are trying to prove about the editorial and its rhetorical effectiveness.

**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.