***Unit II Project***

*Synthesizing Multiple Sources & Perspectives*

**Education: What does it mean to be educated, and who decides?**

In this Unit we’re going to be summarizing, synthesizing, and entering into an academic conversation. As you’ll notice, we’ll be building on some of the things we learned in our previous Unit, specifically our new understanding of what it means to critically think, read, annotate, and analyze a text. One of the purposes in academic writing is entering a conversation that precedes you. In order to do that, you need to help your audience understand the significance of what you are going to argue by providing context for your argument. Providing the reader with a purposeful, directed, and persuasive synthesis creates that “context.” This Unit is going to have you synthesize multiple perspectives from one larger conversation: education. After synthesizing others, you’re going to have to insert your own views.

All writing is performed in response to what others have already written, said, or done because writing always responds to a situation or an issue. In this project I am asking you to write an informational essay that gives your audience a sense of the things people are saying about an educational issue and that also reveals your own thoughts about a particular argument (or topic) within the conversation.

Your final piece of writing will take up a topic in education and reveal what others are saying about it and what you think of what these writers have to say about the topic-- that is, your opinion of their ideas.

* You may want to read to synthesize what people have had to say about the *purpose of education* in America
* You may want to read to synthesize what *the effects of education* *should be* in America
* You may want to read to synthesize how *race and identity factors into education*
* You may want to read to synthesize what writers have to say *about any moral or ethical responsibilities education should convey* to Americans
* You may want to read to synthesize what *education has to do with democracy and social justice*
* You may want to read to synthesize how *education affects students differently*

Each of these topics addresses a question that people are debating in larger Conversations about both what it means to be educated and how we go about deciding what to do to improve education. We’ll be reading different perspectives on education, and, more than likely, you’re going to have to do some research to better support your question and argument.

Your job in this project is to listen to what people are saying about education, find a topic that interests you and use what the authors are saying as a way to set up what you want to say about the topic.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

**As I read your essays, I will consider the following questions:**

* Are you entering a larger conversation about education by focusing on one topic/question?
* Does the introduction give a sense of direction with a main claim so that the reader understands where you’re going with the conversation and why?
* Do you bring together at least three conversations (synthesize) about education, or who decides what it means to be educated?
* Do you insert your own view after synthesizing what others have said?
* Is your discussion synthesized, not just individually summarized by article?
* Is your organization structured in a coherent, logical manner?

Your essay should be double-spaced, 5-6 pages in length (1750-1950 words), 12 pt. Times-New Roman font, 1” margin, and include a creative title. Prepare your works cited page according to the MLA style manual. Feel free to meet with me to discuss your ideas.

**Deadlines:**

**Friday, March 6**:*Rough Draft #1:* must bring ***at least*** three pages; failure to attend class and/or failure to bring at least three pages will result in a lower letter-grade

**March 9 (Monday), March 10 (Tuesday), or March 11 (Wednesday)**:*Individual Conferences*

**Monday, March 13**:*Final Draft due*