**COM 101 Academic Argument Assignment**

As a result of your advocacy, you have been asked to present your findings on your social justice issue in a formal academic setting. **This assignment asks that you create an academic argument based on your research.** You are asked to formulate an original thesis and an evidence based defense of your topic. You should **consult a minimum of six academic sources in your research**. Your final paper should be a minimum of six pages. You may use any research materials you wish and are not obligated to include all materials from the annotated bibliography assignment. However, the sources must meet the quality standards we have discussed throughout the year. **Note the new audience, purpose, tone and genre for this assignment**. You are now presenting a research based argument about your topic, NOT a call for change/action. Consult the Week 8 writing tutorials on writing a research paper and developing a thesis statement to ensure your writing conforms to academic standards.

**Content (25 marks)**

Your research demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, you offer a cogent argument with thorough evidence in support of your claims, there is a sophisticated understanding of the topic, and the argument is persuasive to a learned audience. Sufficient research is present to support claims.

**Analysis (25 marks)**

You demonstrate critical thinking regarding the evidence you present, you offer commentary on your findings, your argument is well considered, thoroughly researched and supported. Strengths and weaknesses of arguments and counterarguments are addressed throughout the paper.

**Organization (25 marks)**

You observe an academic tone throughout your paper, proper paragraphing and formal essay structure is observed throughout, you observe proper transition between ideas, there is a logical and discernible organization of your thoughts.

**Style (25 marks)**

Your paper is free of spelling errors, grammatical mistakes and language level issues, you avoid colloquial language, you demonstrate an understanding of rhetorical appeals, and you maintain formal diction throughout the paper.

**This assignment is due at 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 27th. It should be submitted electronically via the class Blackboard site. The late penalty is 5% per school day. If you have any questions or concerns please ask well before this date. This class will be using APA citation and a style tutorial is available through the library. Please use a 12 point font and 1 inch margins all around. Your paper should be a minimum of 6 pages.**