UNIT 2

For this assignment I want you to prepare a project on a social or political issue that interests you. You may choose any issue of local, national, or international importance; however, you must approve your topic with me before you begin writing. I suggest that you choose something that concerns or impacts you. Once you have chosen a topic, focus on the areas of that issue over which there is controversy or disagreement. Through your project you will articulate your own position on the issue and explain the impact and/or potential consequences of the issue. Before you decide on your position, you must thoroughly inform yourself about the issue by culling through the evidence and various perspectives surrounding it.

I have called this assignment a project. It has two parts.

In the first part of the project you will create a pamphlet for public consumption. Imagine you are preparing this project to present your views outside of the University Center. Although the text or "argument" of your project must be well thought out and well researched (at least five outside sources), it must also be visually stimulating (eye-catching), and readable (e.g. don't use size eight font). You do not have a captive audience so you must both persuade them both of your views and to read those views in the first place. This part of your project should demonstrate the careful thought and research that you have put into developing your position. You may use text and images, but your entire project must fit on both sides of an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper. You may fold this paper in any way you want. The pamphlet will be graded on the coherency, cogency, and persuasiveness of your arguments and their presentation (since the two are inseparable in this project).

The second part of the project involves a metapaper. In this paper, you will discuss the choices you have made regarding the presentation of your material. This paper will have a thesis. Your discussion of the presentation should include both the visual aspects and content issues. Which key points of your topic did you include? Which did you exclude? Why? To justify your decisions, you may find it useful to refer back to the ideas of logos, ethos, and pathos.

As a guideline, your metapaper could have four parts. 1) An introduction that tells me your argument and your goals in preparing this project. 2) A section on the layout or format of your project discussing the choices you made about the "public consumption" side of this project. 3) A section on the content of your project discussing which points you chose to make and why you chose to make them. 4) A conclusion that recapitulates your argument in the context of the specific presentation you have now described. Please include your bibliography with the metapaper, even if you have also chosen to include it in your pamphlet. (500 - 750 words)

Purpose: I want this assignment to make you more self-conscious as writers, especially of the way in which form and content intertwine. That is, I want you to become more aware of the choices that you make as a writer. I also want to introduce you to basic research methods.