Unit II: Research Paper Assignment  
Social, Philosophical, or Religious Issues

Overview
Write a 5-6 page research paper exploring a social or cosmic (philosophical or religious) issue from the point of view of two or three positions and/or belief systems. Your paper should cite at least four relevant sources. After researching these differing positions and/or belief systems, evaluate and assert your position on the issue. Develop and support a thesis that reflects your views on the research you’ve accumulated. Cosmic and social issues are rarely two-sided (right/wrong, good/bad, black/white); do not simply agree or disagree with one camp as that would be repetitive. Rather, explore and point out the complications, contradictions, and multiple layers of your topic.

Requirements
1. Research and then take a position on a social or cosmic issue of your choice.
2. Develop and support a thesis that reflects your informed and insightful views on the multiple positions and/or belief systems you have researched.
3. Clearly and logically structure your research paper using your source material in a supportive and effective way.
4. Your essay should be 5-6 pages typed, 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and page numbers. Cite all sources using MLA style, and include a title but not a title page.
5. Minimum of four relevant sources, two of which may come from the assigned readings in WatW.
6. No sign of plagiarism what-so-ever: According to MLA “plagiarism refers to a form of cheating that has been defined a “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own” (Alexander Lindey, Plagiarism and Originality [New York: Harper, 1952] 2). Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person’s ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person’s work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person’s ideas, information, or expression as your own to get a better grade or gain some other advantage constitutes fraud” (Gibaldi, 2.1). You will receive an F for the paper and course if you are found to be plagiarizing.