Assignment: Selecting two of the essays we have read (or will read) for this first unit, write a comparison paper in which you summarize each essay and then analyze the essays together. The first paper assignment asks you to examine the construction and effect (the rhetoric) of the two essays. In other words, after summarizing what each essay says, consider how it is making its argument. Next, compare the rhetorical construction of the two essays together, noting both similarities and differences. Organize your paper into separate paragraphs and be sure to include an introduction as well as a conclusion. Your introduction should have a clear and argumentative thesis which explains why you will be analyzing these particular essays together. Use quotes to support your summary and comparison, and be sure to cite the page number of each quoted reference.

In brief, this paper asks you to:
1. Select and summarize two essays we have read for this unit.
2. Analyze how each essay is rhetorically structured to persuade the reader.
3. Ask yourself why you selected these two essays and create a list of similarities and differences between the two.
4. Write a draft, integrating these three steps of the assignment.

You do not need to complete steps 1-3 in that order. Consider playing around with the organization of your essay.

Why this Assignment? This paper asks you to practice skills—summary, comparison, and analysis—that will be asked of you in nearly every academic writing situation. For example, you will need to incorporate summary and synthesis into the other two papers you write for this class. Papers written for the sciences, social sciences, and humanities all typically involve some interaction with other arguments.

What I’m Looking For:

- A paper that follows the details of this assignment and is 4-5 double spaced pages in length with 12 pt. Times New Roman Font and 1” margins all the way around.
- Logically ordered and organized paragraphs, including an introduction and a conclusion.
- An argumentative thesis that explains why you are pairing these particular essays.
- Clear distinctions between your summaries and quotes from the two essays.
- Parenthetical citations of all quotes and paraphrases of the two essays (don’t worry about using correct APA/MLA formatting—we’ll be covering this on the next two assignments).
- Correct grammar, spelling, and mechanics.
- An eye-catching title.

The final paper is worth 85% of your first unit portfolio grade. The rough drafts are worth 5% each, and the peer review sheet is also worth 5%.