Essay 1: Analyzing an Argument

To prepare for this unit, read **Chapter 8: Analyzing Arguments in** *The St. Martin's Handbook*

* Your FIRST Essay Assignment is to **analyze an argument** from either the Times articles on obesity, the attached essays on junk food in schools as the student writer does in the example on pages 182-183 of your textbook, OR an article you find in Opposing Viewpoints online. *

> Your essay will answer the questions:
> What is the claim? The reasons? Assumptions? Evidence?
> What appeals are used? (Logos, pathos, ethos)
> Are there any fallacies? If so, what are they and how could they be corrected?

For this assignment, do not *agree or disagree with the argument (that will be the next essays. For THIS ASSIGNMENT, your task is to* critically evaluate *the argument for* how *it is working (or not).*

See calendar for Essay 1 "Analyzing an Argument" due dates and submit in "Assignments" in Canvas. Essay MUST be at least two pages, APA format with a Reference page.

IMPORTANT: Remember that you are NOT ARGUING YOUR OPINION in this essay (i.e., this is NOT an opinion/research essay). We'll have plenty of opportunities to argue our opinions in essays two and three.

For this first essay, you are **scrutinizing another writer's argument** (any of the articles posted in this week's learning modules that you didn't already discuss in the boards OR you may choose another article you find in OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS online), analyzing for all *three appeals* (ethos, pathos, logos) and any problems/flaws (especially fallacies).

Please make sure you choose an article you can evaluate/examine/dissect in depth---if you find yourself running out of things to say after two paragraphs, choose another article that you can get more out of—because essays that fail to provide convincing analysis (i.e., too short, too surface, not enough detail, not enough examples, *not at least two pages of insightful analysis*) will not earn a passing grade. It is NOT ENOUGH simply to agree with the article. Show its flaws as well.

If you have ANY QUESTIONS about the essay, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help you, and I want you all to do well on this assignment. If you are unsure about what I'm looking for, again, please ask.

Unit Reading

- Besides chapter eight in your textbook, you'll also need to read the four essays on junk food in schools (attached as PDFs in this module)

- Finally, you must read and respond to the Pro & Con Debate:

  - Balko, Radley, Kelly Brownell, and Marion Nestle. "America's Obesity Crisis: Are You Responsible for Your Own Weight?" Attached as a PDF in this Module.

After reading the assigned essays and chapter, please <u>post</u> your answers to the following in the DISCUSSION BOARD in Canvas and respond to at least two classmates' posts. **Remember that your original post is due Sunday, and your response to classmates is due Tuesday. Check the schedule of due dates on the Homepage of our Canvas course (with the picture of the out-of-work scientist on it) for due dates.**

Discussion Questions (answer in complete, thoughtful paragraphs):

1. In this first paragraph, Balko mentions some specific initiatives that would involve some governmental control over Americans' eating habits. Which of them, if any, do you support? Explain.
2. What does Balko favor instead of such initiatives?
3. According to Balko, what mistakes have Americans made in the way that have tried to fight obesity?
4. Why do Brownell and Nestle believe that the government must bear some of the blame for obesity?
5. What does the food industry offer in its defense?
6. How did the practice of making health the personal responsibility of the consumer work when it came to smoking?
7. Whose argument do you find more convincing, and why?