

## OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE of SELF: BECOMING a CITIZEN RHETOR

**TWICE (2 times) a week**, you will write an entry for an Annotated Bibliography for an authentic news story from a valid, verifiable, journalistically accepted genre—either a periodical (newspaper/magazine); television news outlet; or online site. Please type or print/handwrite legibly in black or blue INK) in your JOURNAL. Completing this assignment will provide you with at least 30 journal entries toward completing your required 50 by Dec.15.

**Annotated Bibliography Format** (approximately one page per entry)

1. At the **beginning** of EVERY response, cite the source according to **MLA 8**. You cannot receive full credit without having done so.
2. **Summary:** Follow the 4-Sentence Precise format for the first few weeks. After several rehearsal entries, begin condensing the 4-Sentence format into one thesis-type sentence/summary for subsequent entries.
3. **Evaluation:** Write a first draft evaluation of the source, exploring your thoughts and feelings about the **quality and credibility** of the source, the delivery, the style, the RHETORIC of the news piece. Is the information up-to-date? Do the author's ideas have merit? Why/why not? Does the author benefit financially from the conclusions? Identify the bias--whether liberal, conservative, middle-of-the-road or a combination. Are the author's sources cited? Discuss the style of the piece, whether visual or print; the images employed; rhetorical strategies. Discuss Appeals to the Audience (*ethos, pathos, logos*). Has this story changed your beliefs in any way, challenged you, taught you? Always include How and Why/why not?

**YOU MUST MIX UP THE SOURCES.** Do not watch only one television news outlet or read articles solely from one newspaper. Do NOT read/watch news only off the Internet or Facebook. Certainly do not limit your viewing/reading to satire. Read a variety of sources. The idea is to GROW as a thinker, to be able to think for yourself--not to personally validate the theory of **confirmation bias** (*i.e., the tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that confirms one's preexisting beliefs or hypotheses*)

**Suggested Sources** (a mix of liberal/conservative/middle-of-the-road)

**Periodicals: Magazines--***Time, Salon, The New Yorker, National Review, The American Spectator*

**Newspapers:** *The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Denver Post, The Daily Sentinel, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Post, The Miami Herald, The Houston Chronicle*

**Television News Broadcasts:** CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, FOX

**Satiric News:** *The Onion, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, The Daily Show, Real Time with Bill Maher, Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, Weekend Update of Saturday Night Live* (**Caveat:** Satire spins toward a liberal bias; there are interesting discussions of how and why comedy is inherently liberal, which might be a good topic for a future Socrates Café/research paper; just know that conservatives generally produce fewer satirical pieces than liberals—and that all generalizations are false, including this one.)

Fear not to record your own beliefs, thoughts, and feelings candidly. We care that you are thinking/processing, not what side you take. It is also all right not to be able to decide what you think/feel, so long as you explore, ponder, question, process.