

## Essay #4—Argumentative Research

For this essay, you have free reign (relatively) to choose a topic within the scope of this unit. Your essay should focus on one or more of the aspects below to develop a focused response to the concept of the War on Drugs using scholarly/academic and credible sources as well as the documentary *The House I Live In*:

### War on Drugs

- History of
- Rhetorical/Political Strategies of
- Minority Representation
- Low socio-economic representation
- Prison as a business
- Private prisons (prisons for profit)
- Dehumanization
- Mandatory Minimum Sentencing/Fair Sentencing Act
- Chain of Destruction (see me if you wish to write about this topic as there is little research on this idea)
- Civil Forfeiture
- Voter Disfranchisement Laws
- Convict Leasing
- Mass Incarceration
- Drug Use and Personal Responsibility

**IMPORTANT:** You must get approval from me in writing for your research topic. You will need to **email your essay #4 topic in the form of a tentative thesis statement** to me by **Monday, April 20th at 11:59pm**. Failure to get approval from me may result in a low essay grade.

### Essay Requirements:

- 850-1200 words
- Incorporation of textual evidence from at least five scholarly/credible sources to support your claims
- Maintain standard rules of paragraph construction: topic sentences with claims, strong supporting quotations/evidence, well-developed analysis, and appropriate transitions;
- Anchor essay with a clear, argumentative thesis statement
- Follow MLA format precisely
- Works Cited page

Please be aware that you will NOT have the opportunity to revise this essay. This means you will need to be proactive and stay diligent in completing this assignment to the best of your ability. I recommend making appointments with the Writing Center and/or seeing me during my office hours for tutoring and guidance.