**Essay #4: Researched Critical Analysis: Extending the Theme of the Exploratory Essay** (*The Norton Field Guide*: Chapter 13) and **Reflection/Self-Assessment** (20%):

This assignment asks you to expand upon the topic you introduce in your Exploratory Essay by thinking about it in a larger context and using additional sources to serve as evidence of your claims. You are asked to use *at least five sources* to substantiate your claims (you may rely on the sources you used in your previous essay). While the purpose of your Exploratory Essay is to introduce, explain, and explore your topic, this assignment requires deeper analysis and a concrete, specific thesis statement. This paper is an opportunity for you to be critical, ask questions, and make claims based in your own research and experience. This essay asks you to state an opinion or take a side on an issue and explain why. You are required to submit a Reflection/Self-Assessment along with your final draft, in which you comment on your experience writing this essay and discuss your rhetorical choices.

**Word Count**: Essay – 1750-2000 words | Reflection/Self-Assessment – 500 words

Due: **Monday, December 5th**

Things to keep in mind as your write your Critical Analysis Essay:

* In this essay, you will expand upon your Exploratory Essay topic, form an opinion on a facet of that topic, and try to persuade your audience of your position by employing the key features of an effective argument described in the *Norton* text. This is your opportunity to discuss your personal opinion on your topic.
* You may want to rely on and reuse the research you did for your Exploratory Essay. You must also use at least two more scholarly, peer-reviewed sources from professional journals or something similar, which you can access through the CCNY virtual library catalogue. This means your final Works Cited page should list at least five sources.

Use the following criteria when assessing your and your classmates’ essays. I will be using the same rubric when I grade the final drafts.

* Do you have a **clear and arguable position**? Is your argument clear?
* Have you included **background information** to provide a context for your argument?
* Have you provided **good reasons** in support your argument?
* Have you provided **evidence** in support of your reasons?
* Have you **demonstrated**, through your inclusion of facts and your tone, that you are a **reliable source**?
* Have you **considered others’ positions**, and responded to them reasonably, even if you disagree?
* Did you **design** your essay appropriately? Are there adequate visual elements?
* Did you **cite** at least five sources on your subject? Did you cite properly according to MLA standards? Did you include a Works Cited page?
* Does your essay have an engaging **title**?
* Have you **proofread and edited** your paper for grammatical and punctuation errors?
* Have you submitted a 2-page **Reflection/Self-Assessment** along with your final draft?