Essay #2: Synthesis Essay

PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

English 124

Outline Due 10/26  First Draft Due 10/31  Revision Due 11/21

Over the last few weeks we have looked at a number of perspectives on the topic of privacy ranging from essays (Lepore, Solnit), a report (Madden & Rainie), a documentary (Poitras), a TED Talk (Greenwald), and a short story (Eggers). Now it is your turn to enter the conversation by providing a synthesis of these ideas before providing your own subjective position on the topic.

The essential questions you are responding to are 1) what to these writers have to say about privacy in the digital age and 2) what is your position on the topic?

In order to write an effective analysis, I advise that you follow these steps:

• Introduce the topic, maybe including an anecdote from your own life, an example from a culturally relevant reference, or a quote that relates to what you are discussing. Give your reader a sense of what you will be discussing in your essay and why.

• Next, tell us what others are saying, providing a summary and analysis of the ideas put forth by at least three voices found in our class texts. Be sure to show how these ideas are related and how they differ. You will want to provide relevant quotes to show what they are saying, making sure to frame each quote.

• Once you have shown what others have said it is your turn to respond. Show whether you agree, disagree or agree and disagree simultaneously. This is your chance to include reference to your self-selected text that may support you positions, or at least help to why what you are discussing is important. As you’re doing this, be sure to distinguish what you are saying from what others have said. It would help to identify whose views you agree with the most and explain your reasoning with examples from your knowledge and experiences.

• After presenting your position, enhance your credibility by planting a naysayer, anticipating objections, qualifying and/or making concessions to this position. Represent these objections fairly and be sure to answer them.

• End with a conclusion that summarizes your position and says why it matters.

Class Texts


Self-selected “privacy” text (See RR#9 prompt)

Requirements:

• Your essay must be a minimum of 4-6 pages long, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and formatted according to MLA guidelines, including a works cited page.

• Your essay must include references (direct quote and paraphrase) to at least three of the class texts listed above in addition to a self-selected text from a credible source.

• Your essay must have a strong thesis that is well supported through well-developed, unified and coherent body paragraphs that contain effective topic sentences.