Reading and Preparation for Weeks 4 and 5 – English 202

Notice the kinds of evidence presented in each argument, and consider its quantity, quality, and relevance. How much does each writer seem to understand opposing viewpoints? What attitude toward those who disagree does each writer seem to have? Also start to consider, as far as you are able, how well the points made work logically as support for the overall position/thesis.

You may notice that “Competitive Cheerleaders” is annotated in the margins in a rather different way than some of the essays we have read previously. We’ll talk about some of this vocabulary and how it may be useful; you can preview this by looking at the definitions on p. 194. For now, continue thinking about the relevance and logic of the supporting points, the evidence given, and where/how opposing points are mentioned and responded to.

“Violent Media” brings us back to a cause/effect argument (taking a position opposite to John Leo’s piece that we read for January 31). What is the nature of the evidence that Gerard Jones offers to support his position? How strong is it?

For Feb. 16: “Short Distance Learning,” *Practical Argument* 226-27, and “Immigration Time-out,” *Practical Argument* 149-51
How strong and relevant is the evidence in “Short Distance Learning”? What might strengthen this argument?

Our textbook offers “Immigration Time-Out” as an example of an argument that has some logical flaws. See how many problems in logic you can find. Since this controversial topic is still current, this is a good time to remind ourselves that there’s a difference between analyzing and critiquing an argument and agreeing or disagreeing with the position. It would be possible to make a good argument in favor of the position Buchanan takes, or a good (or weak) argument for a different position on this issue.

See how much you can observe and critique of how these arguments work, considering rhetoric (ethos, pathos, stance toward those with other viewpoints) and logic (reasons and evidence).

For Feb. 21: “My Plan to Escape the Grip of Foreign Oil,” *Practical Argument* 531-33
If you were going to write an analysis paper on this essay, what aspects of the argument would be important to include? Overall, how sound and effective is it?

For Feb. 23: Read the sample analysis papers posted in D2L; consider what each does well and how it could be improved.