Essay #3 The Concept Essay

Assignment:
Write an essay about a concept of your choice. When you have a good understanding of the concept you have chosen, explain it to your readers, considering carefully what they might already know about it and how your essay might add to what they know. You will be required to utilize two to four (2-4) scholarly sources, as discussed in class.

Your essay must open with an introductory hook and your thesis should be clearly, but not necessarily overstated fairly early in the essay (no later than a page and half into it). The essay should assert the definition of your concept and what you believe to be the significance of the concept clearly and specifically early on as well.

You must remember to thoroughly discuss the aspects of your topics in the body and must conclude by rephrasing your thesis and make sure that you have run threads through each of the aspects of the concept so that you have cohesively and logically argued your thesis as we discussed in class.

Writing Strategies:
You will employ writing strategies offered in SMG chapter 4 (comparison and contrast, classification, process narration, etc.).

Your essay needs to follow a logical order of organization that will guide the reader through your explication in a step-by-step process. To achieve this goal, you will want to concentrate on creating a forecasting statement to accompany your thesis at the beginning of the paper and support it throughout with clear transitions that indicate how your ideas relate to each other or signal changes in topic or focus. Again, you will need to consider strategies of extended definition, comparison and contrast, classifying or dividing or narrating a process for this essay.

Remember that explanatory essays do not need to be dry, boring dictionary definitions. Instead, they should contain many of the elements you’ve practiced in the first two essays: to not only tell but also to show the meaning and significance of the concept through vivid description textured with significant details that will provide depth to your definition as well as make it compelling. Like the previous essays, the dominant impression that you create in constructing your definition will be just as important as the clear, methodical explanation that you give. Tell me a story!

You must follow the format for MLA documentation of sources as outlined in your textbook and discussed in class.

Length: 1200 words

Things to Consider:
Remember that this is not a research paper: you are using the sources to help you explain the concept to your reader. Be sure that your concept is a concept, not a disease or a thing or a phenomenon. Check your textbook for many good suggestions of concepts to write on, or
choose a topic from your studies in other courses or choose one from the list I provided for you early on.

This essay must utilize three outside resources that you will use for support or as a place for criticism. Remember when using outside resources the goal is not to simply plop them into the essay and hope the reader understands their purpose. It is the job of the writer to both smoothly integrate short pieces of information into his/her prose according to proper documentary style, as well as to discuss the research’s significance to your essay. Also, remember that you are not allowed to use block quotes and that you must choose carefully how much of your essay will be argues with quotes from other sources; I want to know your analysis of this concept. Finally, don’t forget to introduce your resources and to follow MLA style as found in the SMG ch. 22; be very careful when citing and paraphrasing. I highly recommend using the noodlebib express link at www.noodletools.com to assist in creating a properly formatted works cited page.

You may use the following sources: authoritative web sites from institutions trusted by academics (typically .gov, .edu, and .org sites, though the latter must be scrutinized carefully), academic journals (either paper or digital form), books, movies, and television shows. You are not allowed to use encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, or Wikipedia.

Good luck!