***Viewpoints* Essay #3—The Cause-Effect Essay**

This assignment asks you to write an essay that conforms to a rhetorical (logical) structure. ***Rhetoric*** is really just the set of rules that one follows to think logically and be able to trust a conclusion. Rhetorical rules exist for ***comparing and/or contrasting*** subjects, ***defining*** terms, ***classifying*** individuals into groups, as well as guidelines for working with ***causes and effects*** of events.

We will learn about and practice ***cause-effect*** or ***causal analysis*** for Essay #3 to develop a sense of all that goes into linking events to whatever caused them or what they (the events) perhaps caused or will cause. The ability to use the rules of cause-effect has a very practical real-world application: those of us who are able to employ proper cause-effect reasoning typically make better choices and lead more productive lives.

Though tempting to get right to the assignment, please be sure to do the recommended prep work first. Also, you may find yourself in a different Writing Group for Essay #3, so please find the group with your name on the list. Let's get started:

Welcome to our third essay. Before you begin, please remember what we have already learned about introductory paragraphs, clear thesis sentences, robust supporting paragraphs to develop the thesis, and elegant conclusions to tie it all together.

Also, please remember that composing an essay is a **process**—a series of steps--that takes an essay through as many meaningful changes as the sample essay and revisions found on pp. 60-74 of our text *Viewpoints*.

**Writing Groups**

You may find yourself in a new writing group for our third essay, so please be sure to locate your name before submitting your rough draft. Again, please keep in mind that the purpose of a writing group is to offer constructive feedback on the drafts of essays after the drafts have been taken through **at least** the second revision described on pp. 60-74 of our text. Feedback from your peers concerning your essay can then be blended into your subsequent revisions to make your final draft (the one you submit for a grade) even better.

The version of your essay, taken **at least through the second revision**, is due submitted to your Writing Group **by the date specified on the calendar**. An on-time submission can yield up to five points.

Each member of the Writing Group will then have the next few days to offer constructive comments and suggestions to the other members’ drafts. Of course, it is always your choice whether to incorporate your Writing Group’s advice into your essay.

In addition, full participation in your Writing Group by offering useful, constructive comments to all members concerning their essays can earn an additional five points if completed by the due date on the calendar.

You will then have the next few days to complete the third and fourth revisions of your essay, and put your essay in its final form. **You may either submit the final draft to me by using the Essay Drop Box or you may turn in a hard copy at our end-of-the-quarter meeting.** Please note the due date for your final version on the calendar. **An essay can earn up to 100 points.**

**Be sure your opening paragraph includes the five requirements we learned for Essay #2. Another requirement is that you blend words from the *Viewpoints* essay with your own where appropriate. Be sure to follow proper MLA citation guidelines to give credit to the words you borrow.**

One note—once you give the author’s full name in your introduction, refer to him or her by last name only throughout the rest of your essay.

Please read all four of the following *Viewpoints* essays. Then choose ONE essay topic assignment (options are given at the end of each essay listed below).

CHOICES

**1.** *Your Mirror Image?* by Francine Russo, pp. 233-235. Essay Topic #3 on p. 236

**2.** *Bottomless Drinking Ban on College Campuses* by Lis Wiehl, pp. 258-260, **and** *Binge Drinking Is a Normal Impulse* by Jennie Bristow, pp. 262-265. Essay Topics #3 or #4 on p. 267.

**3.** *Society Is Dead: We Have Retreated into the iWorld* by Andrew Sullivan, pp. 377-379. Essay Topic #3 on p. 380.

**4.** *Televising Humiliation* by Adam Cohen, pp. 381-383. Essay Topics #1 or #5 on p. 384-385.