**ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVE**: To create an overview of his/her chosen topic by highlighting 2 differing perspectives of the overall argument surrounding the local issue.

**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**:

* The paper should use MLA formatting throughout, including a proper heading (with my name spelled correctly), citations for attribution, and a Works Cited page with both of your articles (and any other sources you've used for context).
* The paper should use an easy-to-read 12 point font. Suggested fonts included Times New Roman, Georgia, Helvetica, and Arial.
* The paper should use 1" margins all around.
* Papers should be 700-900 words (roughly 3-4 pages).
* Papers should include:
	1. an overview of your topic (basic details on its start, why it is important, etc.)
	2. an overview of perspective A in the issue
	3. an overview of perspective B in the issue
* You may include your own opinion in this issue if you've already formed an opinion*.*However, you don't have to have made a decision on which side you agree with. Whether you have an opinion on the topic or if you're still forming an opinion, include your current stance.
* While you're not specifically arguing a side (yet--that will come later in the course), you will need to include a thesis statement in your introduction that clearly lays out what you'll discuss in your paper.
* **Selected topic:** Traffic issues in Charleston

**Specific:** I'd encourage you to find one specific area of traffic/congestion and focus on the ways to change and/or alleviate that backup. For example, you could look at the current discussion around the expansion of Highway 41 in Mount Pleasant, the argument for/against widening the road to Kiawah Island, the lengthening of 526, the need for additional traffic measures in Summerville, etc.

**ASSIGNMENT REQUIRMENTS:**

**Thesis**

15 points

The thesis statement is obvious, strong, argumentative, and clear. If the author's name and title of the work has not been shared in the opening paragraph already, the writer includes that information in the thesis statement. ALL elements of the argument and paper are covered and/or strongly alluded to in the thesis.

**Paper body**

20 points

The body paragraphs clearly support what has been established in the thesis through personal analysis and direct evidence from the text(s) and/or outside sourcing. The paragraphs have appropriate transitions between the ideas and lead the reader logically from one idea to the next. The paper reads confidently, logically, and with conviction. The paper includes a counterargument where appropriate.

**Conclusion**

15 points

The conclusion wraps up the writer's argument while also pushing the argument forward, either through actionable advice on how the reader may apply this argument to other areas or by tying the argument into the larger discussion surrounding the topic(s). The conclusion is a logical and emphatic conclusion to the paper.

**MLA formatting**

15 points

The paper follows the standards of MLA formatting in all aspects of the paper: the header and title are present, the paragraphs are indented, the entire paper is double spaced and in a 12 point font that is easily readable, the Works Cited page is present and appropriately formatted, and any outside sources are indicated in in-text citations and the Works Cited page.

**Mechanical components**

15 points

The paper has been carefully proofread and has virtually no errors.

**Overall effect**

20 points

The paper presents a robust, compelling, and appropriate argument that demonstrates a mastery of writing and rhetoric. The paper completes all elements of the assignment beyond expectation.