**Assignment 1: Introduction to Issue (Overview and Rubric)**

*General Overview*

In this assignment you will be tasked with writing a 2-3 page introduction to the topic you have selected. The introduction should present a summary of the issue, providing details such as the arguments for and against. At the end of your introduction be sure to present your thoughts on the issue in a logical and well-thought out manner. This assignment will be worth 3% of your final grade.

*Rubric*

In this assignment you will be graded based upon your ability to address each of the following components of the assignment:

* Introductory Paragraph-

In this paragraph you need to set the stage for your reader. Be sure to open with statements, stories, or facts that will pique the reader’s interest. A good research paper is able to tell a story, and that starts with building tension in the introduction.

* Summary of the Issue-

The next paragraph(s) should discuss the issue that you have chosen in greater detail. Provide facts about the issue here. Be sure that you are not yet presenting arguments, just present the facts from each opposing side. This section of the assignment is designed to continue to build upon the tension which you established (or should have established) in the introductory paragraph.

* Arguments-

The following paragraphs will be devoted to presenting the arguments for both sides of the issue. As I mentioned previously, this is a good section to draw on opposing media reports about the issue. See what Fox News says in comparison to MSN, see what the Huffington Post or CNN have to say on the issue. If the argument exists (no matter how outlandish you may think it is) try to incorporate it into this section. Be sure to cite sources (both media and empirical).

* Conclusion to Introduction-

In the last paragraph(s) of the assignment present your thoughts on the issue in a logical and well-reasoned manner. Perhaps draw on some of the research you have begun to accumulate on the issue.

In total this assignment should require a minimum of 2-3 pages double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12. Margins should be standard 1 in. margins. Submit your assignment through SafeAssignment on Blackboard. The draft must be submitted by the start of class on 1/26/14, assignments submitted after the start of class will be assessed a late penalty of 5% for each day late (including weekends) and will only be accepted up to 5 days late.