**The Basics**

This quarter, you are going to work in pairs to compare how the same issue is addressed in different ways. We’ve practiced identifying and using logical fallacies and persuasive techniques; you are going to work to identify how your author is addressing the issue at hand and what techniques are being used, effectively or ineffectively, to persuade you, the reader.

**Partners:**

Choose a topic you are both interested in. **You are not limited to the sample suggestions offered.** One of you will need to find and read a memoir; read about the issue from someone who’s experienced it first-hand. The other will need to find a book that approaches the issue from a 3rd person perspective.

**Working alone:**

Choose either a memoir or 3rd person perspective. Then read an article/editorial/personal essay which addresses the issue from the other perspective.

**Groups of 3:**

Follow the directions for partners; two of you will be reading from a similar perspective, but **you must all read a different book**.

Once you have chosen your topic and book, discuss your choices with your parents and have them fill out and sign the permission slip, to be turned in to me by **February 22 at the latest.**

**As You Read…**

**Annotate** your book, using post-it notes (unless you purchase the book in which case you can write in it). Look for:

* What argument is the author making?
* What facts/anecdotes are being used to support the argument?
* What persuasive techniques is the author using?
* Does the author ever commit any logical fallacies?
* What is surprising or unexpected?

**The Product**

After Spring Break, we will head into the library’s tech lab where you (and your partner) will create a **podcast.**

On the podcast, you will:

* Discuss the elements you annotated in your books, offering specific examples to support your conclusions.
* Decide whether you found the book compelling in its argument(s). Did the book persuade you?
* Discuss the importance (or lack thereof) of the issue addressed in your texts. How relevant is the issue? How pressing? What should be done about it?

**Grades**

You will be graded on your:

* Ability to use evidence from the text to support your analysis
* Analysis and evaluation of the author’s writing and persuasive techniques
* Ability to clearly communicate your ideas by using appropriate intonation, enunciation, and professionalism (no giggling or saying “like” every three seconds)
* Understanding of the issue presented in your text