**King/Swift Collaborative Writing Assignment**

The collaborative writing assignment you will complete this week serves several useful purposes:

1. It provides a review summary/evaluation guidelines in preparation for completing the summary/evaluation assignment on the midterm.
2. It provides a review of problem solving strategy, attitude, and tone in preparation for completing the bad news case on the final exam.
3. It introduces the elements of successful proposals and reports that we have reviewed in discussing problem solving. Your most important assignment in this course is the formal report discussed in lecture 7.
4. It emphasizes the importance of audience analysis--of adapting your message to your reader.
5. It exposes you to thought provoking and memorable examples of effective arguments that we can use to discuss writing strategies.

The first step in completing the King/Swift collaborative writing assignment is to get copies of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" and Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal." You can retrieve copies from the Internet by clicking the titles (links) provided at the bottom of this page.

After retrieving the documents, contact your collaborative team members via Mail or the private Discussion forum that I will create for your team if you request one. Decide on who will play the roles in the collaborative team. Someone should take responsibility as project manager to ensure that the team completes the task. Everyone should act as researchers, summarizing the documents and comparing analyses in order to complete the memo. You may wish to divide responsibilities for word processing and editing the final memo according to team preferences.

Before beginning production of the collaborative summary/evaluation memo, each team member should prepare for discussion by **summarizing** King's and Swift's documents. Paraphrase their theses, main points, and conclusions. To accomplish this feat, look for the six features of successful proposals and reports discussed in lecture Three

Successful proposals and reports:

1. Define a problem.
2. Define a solution.
3. Discuss the advantages of the solution.
4. Anticipate and refute objections to the solution.
5. Discuss how to implement the solution.
6. Justify costs of the solution.

When you find these features of successful proposals in Swift's and King's documents, you have found their theses and main points. Look for their conclusions in the paragraph(s) ending their documents.

Now you should contact your collaborative team members and discuss the following Questions for Evaluation. Your team will present its comparative analysis of the two documents in the evaluation section of its summary/evaluation memo.

1. How would Swift's audience have reacted to his "Modest Proposal" if Swift had used King's tone?

2. How would King's audience have reacted to his "Letter" if King had used Swift's tone?

In order to answer these questions thoughtfully, you must

* Define each author's purpose and audience.
* Analyze each author's relationship to his respective audience.
* Define each author's tone.
* Analyze the motives behind each author's choice of tone.

The memo is worth 20% of each group member's final grade and is due on or before April 27.  
  
["Letter from Birmingham City Jail"](http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf)  
["A Modest Proposal"](http://art-bin.com/art/omodest.html)