**Writing Project Two: Disciplinary Writing Project**

**Why People Write Problem Analyses**

Problem analyses show up in lots of kinds of writing, including white papers, briefs, root-cause reports, and some literature reviews. Many of the scholarly reports you’ll write in college will include at least sections of problem analysis. This type of writing is so prevalent because controversies—that is, issues on which reasonable people disagree—are inherently complex. In the heat of the controversy, it is often difficult to determine the details underneath who the key players (e.g., professionals, experts, and social groups…) are and how their positions relate to one another. When that’s the case, writing offers a dispassionate way of making those relationships visible to readers and explaining why those relationships matter.

**Audience and Purpose for this Assignment**

This assignment puts you in the shoes of an advisor for an individual or group who needs to make a decision on a controversial issue. **It asks you to craft a document that maps stakeholders’ positions in order to show the complexity of an issue or controversy**. You should be able to make connections or analyze how your selected sources are related around your issue. Consider that a stakeholder is anyone with a particular interest—or stake—in the matter at hand. So all stakeholders are involved in and care about that issue. But different stakeholders come to the issue from different perspectives; likewise, what they’re trying to protect is likely different, as are their reasons for getting involved. Figuring what’s at stake and to whom on a given issue is the point of this assignment. So rather than arguing your position on the issue at hand, you’ll be building an argument to convince readers to take seriously your analysis of this contested terrain so that they can make an informed decision down the road. In this way, your analysis will be a coherent and compelling argument in its own right.

As you start to analyze four sources, think about the below lists for your rough draft.

1. Summarize and describe the sources (the background information on the sources)

2. Explain how this source (each source) will inform this topic.

3. What issues, problems, controversies do you source address?

4. What similarities and differences do you find among sources?

5. After comparing and contrasting key points in each source, explain what perspectives (e.g., social, psychological, economic, safety, school education…) each source or author presents in your topic and what kinds of complex issues are mentioned in sources?

6. Considering all sources’ position, who are involved and who do you think really matters this issue (the issues in your topic)? And think about why?

7. What are your finding through the examination of four sources? What are new information? From the source, what issues became important compared to the time at the beginning of your research?

8. What viewpoints in your sources do you most agree with or disagree with? Why?

**(1) Introduction**: Introducing the topic for this problem analysis

-You explain the reason that you have chosen this topic

-Briefly explain each source’s position

-Clearly state the thesis statement

(2) **Body**: Tell audience each source content and background information. Then analyze how this article is necessary part of your topic. Summarize each source and talk about their differences and similarities. You should talk about the relations of four perspectives.

(3) Conclusion: based on your research, what are new finding in your topic? What or who matters to this topic? Evaluate the four sources and synthesize the most important issues in your topic.