Essay 3: Surfacing Subcultures
DUE [day of the week, date, & time], [point value]

The **purpose** of this assignment is to write a college-level, thesis-driven research essay that addresses an opposing or alternative viewpoint, and incorporates scholarly research to build credibility in your argument.

You will practice the following **skills** in this assignment:
- summarize relevant points
- craft and defend an argument about a social community
- address a counterargument in the thesis and a body paragraph
- expanding on discussion points to write a longer work
- use online databases to find scholarly journal articles
- cite scholarly journal articles in MLA or APA format

**THE NITTY GRITTY (baseline requirements)**
You will earn a **5% deduction** to your final essay grade for each missing requirement.
- Follow MLA or APA format.
- Write a minimum of **5 FULL pages** (about 1700 words) of argumentative development.
- Quote from and cite:
  - at least **3** peer-reviewed journal articles from our university’s library databases
  - at least **2** credible outside sources of your choice (e.g. online news/magazine article, organization website, TED Talk, video interview, etc.)
- Include a Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page. This does not count towards the page/word count requirement.

**THE TASK**

**STEP 1:** Choose **ONE** of the following subcultures as the focus of your essay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fandom (choose one)</th>
<th>Hip Hop</th>
<th>R&amp;B</th>
<th>LGBT+/Queer Community</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cosplay</td>
<td>Punk</td>
<td>Gen Z</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Otaku/Anime</td>
<td>Heavy Metal</td>
<td>Millennials</td>
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<td>Nerd Culture</td>
<td>Classical Musicians</td>
<td>Body Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tabletop RPGs</td>
<td>Kpop Music/Fandom</td>
<td>Ballet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Video Gamers</td>
<td>Jazz</td>
<td>Professional Wrestling</td>
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If there is a subculture you would like to research that is not on this list, please speak with me via email or before your outline is due. **Subcultures that promote bigotry will not be permitted.**
STEP 2: Develop an expanded thesis statement (counterarg + main arg + “So what”) that explains the misconceptions and hidden truths/beauties about your subculture.

Example: While *Dungeons & Dragons* players appear antisocial, the game promotes strong and creative teamwork, which is a crucial skill for school and work settings.

STEP 4: Create an outline of your essay (due [day & date]) that provides a basic overview of the argument, discussion points, evidence, and analysis that you plan to discuss in your essay.

*Pro-tip* - This is a great assignment to bring to [link to tutoring services] for feedback and extra credit!

STEP 5: Write a rough draft of your essay (due [day & date]) by adding to the basic points from your outline and turning them into rough paragraphs.

*Pro-tip* - This is also a great assignment to bring to [link to tutoring services] for feedback and extra credit!

STEP 6: Revise your rough draft to produce a polished, college-level version of your essay (due [day & date]). Below are some final steps you should take before submitting your polished draft on Blackboard.

- Read your essay out loud to smooth out grammar and catch typos.
- Double check the nitty gritty requirements (see above) and all steps in this prompt (see above).