

Dr. Cothran
CRTW 201
Paper 2

For this assignment, you will need to write an essay that shows your ability to explore all eight of the Standards of Reasoning (pictured on page 166-167 of LTTT). I will be grading you on a) how thoughtfully you address each standard and b) how well you incorporate all of your ideas into a coherent essay.

Specifically, this essay should be **4-6 pages** in length, typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Topic:

Watch a news show. Then use the eight standards to evaluate the show. Was the newscaster clear? Google one of the stories presented. Did the information on the show appear to be completely accurate? Partially accurate? How “in depth” was the presentation of material? Was the material presented relevant to you – did you feel it was important?

You can choose anything – and it may be fun to choose a source you expect to be biased. Certainly the *Rachel Maddow Show* on MSNBC is known to be “liberal”, and Rush Limbaugh’s radio show is known to be “conservative”. You might also choose a comedy show – John Stewart’s *The Daily Show* and Stephen Colbert’s *The Colbert Report* have a fascinating way of presenting (and commenting on) the events of our time. What about one of those morning shows – like the *Today Show* – is it really presenting news? Or you may want to comment on our local news and evaluate it according to the standards.

Side note: Each time you introduce a new standard for discussion, put that standard in bold. For example, if you are writing a paragraph on precision (“Brian Williams mentioned that the DOW fell, but he neglected to give the precise amount it fell...”), somewhere in that paragraph you should acknowledge that you are exploring the standard of **precision** and put that term in a bold font.