Paper #2: Rhetorical Analysis Due: March 4, 2020

For this paper, you will be doing a rhetorical analysis of Jill Lepore’s article “In Every Dark Hour,” *New Yorker* 3 February 2020.

**NOTE**: The first draft of paper 2 will not “look” like an essay; you will be analyzing various aspects of Lepore’s article in a series of paragraphs. In fact, it will look more like a Library Project.

1. Analysis of *The New Yorker* **style**: at this point, you have at least 4 issues of the magazine. Looking at all of them, what do the physical attributes (cover, article layout, ads, cartoons, typography, use of color, etc—lemon!!) suggest about the magazine’s mission, editorial expectations, and target audience? This should be at least two paragraphs. Remember: using negatives (“This magazine is not for children”) does nothing to describe the magazine (or by the way anything else).

Listen to the February 18, 2015 interview of *The New Yorker’s* editor, David Remnick, on NPR’s *Fresh Air*. This 36-minute interview will give you excellent information on the magazine’s **history** and **mission**. TAKE NOTES. Write at least two paragraphs on what you learned in this interview.

Also, write two paragraphs about *The New Yorker’s* history. Locate and examine a hard copy of *The New Yorker* published in the 1930s and compare it to a 2020 issue, focusing on **similarities** and **changes**—at least two paragraphs.

Finally, who is **Eustace Tilley**?

1. Author credentials: investigate Lepore’s background and track record (Hint: remember LP #3 and LP#4) and summarize them in several paragraphs. What do your findings suggest about Lepore’s credibility and “worthiness” to be published in *The New Yorker*?
2. The **topic** of the article:
3. The **thesis** of the article:

Is it implicit (how) or explicit (where)?

1. How has Lepore **structured her article**? (Hint: the physical layout will help you answer this question.) Describe in detail each section topic.
2. How has Lepore **structured her argument**? To answer this, outline her essay, using the “formal outline” template in the handout on Moodle, to be reviewed in class.
3. Gather some basic information on Lepore’s topic (Hint: LP #2). Assess Lepore’s own research and accuracy.
4. Describe Lepore’s writing style—its level of formality, paragraphing, sentence structure, vocabulary level.
5. Describe your reading experience of Lepore’s article. To what degree does she inform you? How does she keep your interest? Does she persuade you?
6. In the end, considering your assessment of the magazine and the topic, why did the magazine’s editors decide to publish “In Every Dark Hour”?

**NOTE:** The more work you do and the more research you accumulate on this draft, the less you will have to do on the revision!