Essay 3: Assignment Sheet
The Classical Argument

Purpose: - For your final essay, you will write a researched classical argument on a debatable issue in a community to which you belong. A classical argument, as defined in the text, takes a stand on an issue, offers reasons and evidence in support of the writer's point, and summarizes and addresses alternative views to the issue at hand.

The goal of academic argument is not to debate pros and cons, rehash old arguments, or to ridicule those who disagree with you. Instead, academic argument combines *evidence seeking* and *persuasion*. Academic argument considers all available information and views, realizing that the truth may lie somewhere between two established positions or within a third undiscovered position.

Topic: - A debatable issue in a community in which you belong

Audience: - Your classmates and instructors, and the larger FIU community

Research Requirements: You must back up your argument with researched evidence to establish your credibility. You should begin the research and writing process with a clear research question, and should use critical thinking to create a convincing view based on this research and your experiences. At the end of your essay, include a works cited page that provides at least **5 sources**. You may use **up to 3 internet sources**, excluding sources like Wikipedia or Encarta.

Developing Your Essay
In this essay, you will use everything you have learned this semester: invention, research pre-writing and drafting, peer editing, and revision. Your argument should do at least one of the following:

1. *Change the current opinion of an audience that holds a different view.*
2. *Persuade an uninformed audience to adopt your view* [you must provide background information for this option]
3. *Persuade an agreeing, informed audience to act.* Why is your issue so urgent? Why should readers act now?

You should construct a persuasive argument using the three basic rhetorical appeals. Your introduction should get your audience's attention (appealing to pathos), provide background that identifies the conversation you are joining, and clearly state the claim you intend to support. The body of your argument should appeal to logos by presenting reasons and evidence in support of your position, as well as appeal to ethos by using language appropriate to your audience. You may also appeal to pathos by appealing to the values and beliefs of your audience.