Phase 1: Accumulation
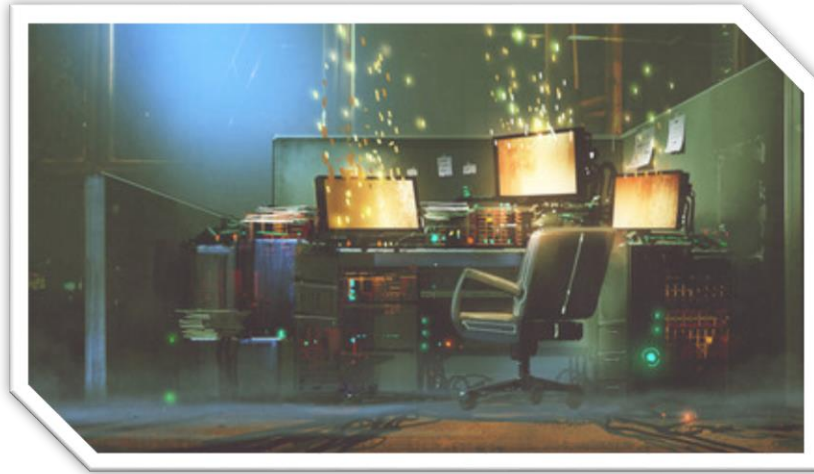

1. **Read:** "Issue 4: Argument Beyond Pro and Con" in *Understanding Rhetoric* (pg. 153-192).

2. **Review** your assignment: The Discourse Analysis.

3. **Identify** the groups that are discussing the issue you have chosen. This will require some involved searching on the internet and possibly the library. Don't stop when you've found the obvious groups– keep looking. For now, don't worry about heavily analyzing the sources you find: just copy the links and save them for later. Once you're done, ask yourself:

   Who are these groups? What are they saying?

4. **Investigate** what research has already been done regarding your investigative question. Who has already investigated this subject? There may be some overlap between this and the previous objective. In particular:
   1. Be sure to check for multiple kinds of investigation: journalism and news media, scholarly studies, etc.
   2. Ask yourself: Is there a definitive answer to the question I'm asking?

5. **Report** your findings (see the following page).

SEND IN YOUR REPORT

Now that you have **accumulated multiple sources**, and identified what previous investigation has been done regarding your topic, the time has come for you to construct the beginning of your **literature review**.

Using Twine, write a review of the literature that has come before you. For now, I expect your literature review will **discuss 5-10 sources**, and will likely be a long paragraph, or a few paragraphs (1-1.5 pages in total) that ideally does the following:

- Describes what research has already been done to answer your question and identifies where there are gaps in existing research.
- Describes where you plan to enter the conversation: what question hasn't been answered? That's where you come in!

From here, you will choose **three** of your most important sources to **annotate.** (We will be doing a sample annotation in class- but an outline of the parts of an annotation is on the next page). *For guidance, here is a sample literature review and two sample annotations from Peter's own research.*

Paste your paragraph or section into Twine, and then use '[[ ]]' to embed links to your four annotations wherever you discuss an author in your lit review, or in another annotation. (For example, "*Both* [[Gee]] *and* [[Waggoner]] *also demonstrate this in their studies…*") If you need help with Twine, a tutorial and helpful guide is available in our 'Tools and Resources' Section.

When you are done, select 'Publish to a File' and attach it in an email to the GM with the subject 'Lit Review'.

Annotating Sources

Annotations are a tool that researchers use to quickly process, and note the relevance of a new source. An annotation can vary in length, but is generally around 250-300 words long, and aims to perform the following functions (remember the acronym *'SCU'*):

<u>S</u>ummarize, <u>C</u>ontextualize, and <u>U</u>tilize**.**

To Summarize: Briefly reiterate the <u>main or relevant points</u> from the source. No need to regurgitate the whole thing! Just enough to remember what this was about.

To Contextualize: Explain what position the source takes in the greater discourse, including things like: *bias, scope*, and *influence*. (We'll be talking about bias in particular in class!)

To Utilize: Describe how the text is relevant to your investigative question, and how you intend to make use of it in your Discourse Analysis.