Select one of the topics below and write an essay on it:

1. Select a popular TV show that perpetuates stereotypes and explain how (or if) that TV show negatively influences viewers. You might consider the following: Duck Dynasty, any of those housewife shows, Tyler Perry’s For Better or Worse, The Soul Man, Here Comes Honey Boo Boo, Toddlers and Tiaras, Jersey Shore, or any others.

2. The term jumping the shark refers to a moment when a TV show has begun to decline in quality to the extent that it can’t recover. Once a TV show has jumped the shark, it’s on its way out of popularity. Select a TV show that is currently on the air and explain how it has jumped the shark or select a TV show that used to be on the air (or shows regular reruns in syndication) and explain the moment that the show jumped the shark). You would be wise to examine a TV show that has been on the air for several years. Some examples would be (but are not limited to) the following: Two and a Half Men, Mad Men, Big Bang Theory, Grey’s Anatomy, True Blood, Breaking Bad, American Idol.

As you develop this essay, you must watch some of these TV shows and be prepared to discuss them specifically. Quote them. Provide specific examples about characters and episodes. We’ll learn how to cite them.

You are not required to do library/online research, but if you wish, you may consult some reliable, appropriate sources that you found using our library’s databases (remember that our databases help you find both print and electronic sources). I recommend starting with CQ Researcher and narrowing your search from there. But you might also try the following databases:

- Academic Search Complete
- Communication and Mass Media Complete
- Telecommunications (ProQuest)
- ProQuest Research Library

You might also find credible, appropriate information from the following publications:

- Entertainment Weekly
- Television Week
- Rolling Stone
- TV Guide
- Variety
- The Hollywood Reporter
- Broadcasting and Cable

At the same time, you should avoid publications that focus mainly on celebrities (not shows), often avoid identifying sources, or have questionable reputations. Such magazines include, but are not limited to People, Us Weekly, The National Enquirer, The Star, and similar tabloids.

Even though you are not required to consult print/online sources, if you choose to do so, you are responsible for ensuring your sources are reliable, relevant, and current.
As you write this essay, you must demonstrate the following writing skills:

- The paper should open with a catchy hook.
- The introduction should lead to a clear main idea.
- Body paragraphs must be logically organized with each paragraph being unified and coherent.
- Body paragraphs should be developed thoroughly with concrete examples, which should come from appropriate sources (see above), which you found using the library’s databases. You must refer to at least one source, and you must use that source to help you develop your body paragraphs, not the introduction and conclusion.
- At the same time, you must watch some TV to develop this paper. Body paragraphs must include specific examples from the TV shows you’re writing about. Be able to quote the personalities/characters on the show, be able to explain specific examples from some episodes. Provide concrete, specific examples. Be prepared to cite the TV shows you refer to.
- The paper should employ a captivating writing style.
- It should extend beyond the typical five-paragraph format, to reveal intellectual investment indicative of a college student.
- It should show careful proofreading and correct documentation of sources in current MLA style, both in the text and on the works cited page.
- The essay and works cited page should be all in one document.

As usual, compose your paper on a word processor and save it as Microsoft Word or in Rich Text Format. This essay is due at 11:59 PM, ET, Sunday, September 22nd. You will submit this paper using the Dropbox in Desire2 Learn. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler. Please contact her if you have questions.