**Macaulay Honors College**

**Seminar 4 – Shaping the Future of New York City**

**Instructor: Andrew Wolf**

**Final Project Assignment (Outline and Annotated Bibliography 15% and Final Report 20%)**

**Outline and Annotate Bibliography Due Before Class April 24th**

**Final Report Due at Midnight May 17th**

You’ve been asked by the New York City Council to give an analysis of a pressing issue facing New York City. You’ve been given *carte blanche*--you get to choose the issue that is important. Your paper should focus on convincing the council of why they should care about the issue, and why your solution is the best plan of action for the city.

The project is split up into 4 components. First you will turn in a detailed outline and an annotated bibliography. Second, you will make a group presentation at the model city council session. Third, you will turn in a final policy paper.

**The outline** is expected to be a detailed outline. The goal is to have the full blueprint for the house you are about to build. This outline should include how you intend to use your sources and should even include key quotes you plan to use. The outline and the final paper should at a minimum include the following components:

* **Intro:** Set the stage and explain why this is a pressing issue.
* **Problem overview (aka literature review):** What is the debate over how this problem should be addressed? What academic debates does it relate to? What parallel or larger policy issues does it deal with?
* **Solution:** How should the city address this issue? How have other cities, states, or countries addressed the issue? What have different advocate groups proposed as a solution to this problem? The solution section must also address **financial and political constraints.** How much will your project cost, where will the money come from, and what revenue (if any) will your project generate? What power does city council have over this issue? Which department or quasi-independent agencies would control or implement your project? If there are land-use issues explain how these need to be addressed.
* **Conclusion:** Sum it all up and make your final appeal.

**The Annotated Bibliography** should include at least 4 academic sources (books, book chapters, or journal articles), 4 newspaper articles, 2 sources of government information (data or official reports), and 2 policy reports from policy groups or activist organizations. Your annotation for each source should be a short summary of the source with a focus on the source’s argument (If it has one. Obviously, government data doesn’t have an argument). Your annotation should also explain how you will use the argument. Do you agree with it or not? Is it a model for your policy? Or is it just for setting the stage?

**The paper** should be 6-8 pages (not including bibliography). You should use proper citation format. I would prefer you used MLA formatting but I would also accept Chicago formatting as well. Refer to the style guide to ensure your formatting is done correctly. Your paper should follow formal academic standards and should not use the first person.