This course entails one major project: An anthropological analysis of a controversial piece of legislation. Each student will choose a piece of (attempted) legislation - it could be in NYC, the state of New York, the USA; in a different country; or it could be international. The point of the project is to analyze why/how the legislation is controversial. This means that students will analyze how **the SOCIAL and INSTITUTIONAL components of law intersect** (i.e., what a law does vs. what people perceive it to do; how a law disproportionately impacts different communities; how a given law is problematically/selectively enforced; etc.).

I encourage you to think creatively about which law you propose to investigate; it should be something that can keep your interest throughout the semester. And remember: you must select a LAW. For instance, saying that you're going to do your paper on "gun control" is too broad. If this is a topic that interests you, though, you should find a specific law relating to gun control (i.e., federal ban on assault rifles, individual state's conceal and carry laws, etc.) to analyze. Indeed, each student should provide the exact name of the law they plan to investigate.

For this assignment, each student is to submit a typed, double-spaced outline of your analysis. This outline should contain the following:

* Thesis statement (please underline it and put in bold).
* Main points (used to support the thesis statement)
* Supporting arguments (used to support each main point)
* Citations of the sources you will use (this will come from your bibliography; yes, the sources could have changed since when you submitted the bibliography)
* Bibliography containing 6 academic outside sources and 4 academic sources from the syllabus (you do not need to include your annotations)

In other words, it should take the following format:

* Introduction
  + Attention grabber
  + Hypothesis
  + Supporting evidence
    - Argument 1
    - Argument 2
    - Argument 3, 4, 5…
* Supporting paragraph 1 (i.e., Argument 1)
  + Topic sentence
  + Evidence (from participant observation, interviews and/or academic sources)
  + Explanation of evidence (relating to topic sentence)
  + Explanation of evidence (relating to hypothesis)
* Supporting paragraph 2 (i.e., Argument 2)
  + Topic sentence
  + Evidence (from participant observation, interviews and/or academic sources)
  + Explanation of evidence (relating to topic sentence)
  + Explanation of evidence (relating to hypothesis)
* Supporting paragraph 3
* Supporting paragraph 4
* Supporting paragraph 5….
* Conclusion
  + Restate hypothesis
  + Review evidence
  + Wrap up/”drop the mic” (aka, restate why this research is important)

The thesis statement is the main claim that you will be supporting throughout your analysis. It comes from the hypotheses that you've been developing throughout the semester.

These outlines do not need to contain every piece of information that you will include in your final paper. Though, it should contain enough information - thesis, main arguments, supporting arguments, citations - to give me a good idea of how you're crafting your analysis. It should be clear and well-organized. Remember, though: the more information you include here, the easier it will be to write your final paper.