Persuasive Editorial (A Research that Reaches Out Signature Assignment)

The Background: For paper 3, you already compiled and analyzed social science research on a specific topic within the broader field of race and society. You now have data on the nature of a social problem and/or the effectiveness of particular solutions.

The Assignment: For Paper 4, you must persuade a public audience, readers of a local or national newspaper or magazine (pick one) to adopt a course of action or change their current thinking on a specific aspect of race relations, racial disparities, or racial injustice. Don't feel pressure to propose a major program or fix problems no one else has fixed. You may simply persuade us to be aware of an issue, to rethink a problem, to define something differently, or to replicate something that was successful somewhere else. Consider the ethical dimensions of different solutions or ways of thinking, and then explain why the one you're advocating is the best.

The Method: Make appeals to multiple kinds of reasoning and evidence. Certainly make use of the evidence you gathered in your research for Paper 3, but also include, when relevant, appeals to history, personal narrative, psychology, biology, etc. Consider and rebut counterarguments.

Your Voice: Write as an educated and concerned citizen. If it is appropriate to the topic and audience you have chosen, you may write as someone more specific, such as a concerned parent, a resident of Georgia, an immigrant, or a college student at Mercer.

The Components:

1. Bring to class on Wednesday, November 16, a persuasive editorial published recently in a newspaper or magazine of your choice.
2. A working draft (not yet a rough draft; see below what I mean by working draft) is due in class on Tuesday, November 29.
3. Bring two copies of a complete, edited first draft to class on Tuesday, December 6, for a peer review draft workshop. You will hand in one copy of the first draft.
4. Submit the revised and edited final draft on Blackboard via SafeAssign by the end of your final exam period (by 5 PM on Tuesday, Dec 13.) The final draft should include a cover letter explaining your writing process and how the paper demonstrates your development as a writer.

The Parameters: Papers should be double-spaced and roughly 6-7 pages. Normally, newspaper editorials do not follow an academic citation style, but for our purposes, you should use MLA or APA citation style, and you must include a complete Works Cited page/ bibliography.