Essay #3: Debating Protest

In this essay, you will enter a debate about a contemporary social protest movement. The articles by Healy and Merkin each offer one view of a recent, headline-grabbing protest. Healy defends student anti Alt-Right protests at colleges such as UC Berkeley and Middlebury, while Merkin questions the efficacy of the #MeToo movement.

First, choose one of these movements which you would like to continue studying. Find at least one article that engages with either Healy or Merkin. Then, craft and defend a thesis that takes a stand on some aspect of the discussion being had by the two articles. You should find a way to either agree with and build on or disagree with parts of the articles you choose. Whichever approach you take, be sure to make your own voice heard. In other words, don’t just summarize or reiterate another writer’s viewpoint. Instead, you should carefully consider the articles and defend a claim that either builds on or critiques (or some combination thereof!) some element of their argument.

When deciding your paper’s topic and narrowing the scope of your intervention, you should consider the following questions:

- What are the elements of Healy/Merkin’s argument?
- What ideas, concepts, or points are they leaving out?
- What kinds of arguments/articles/assumptions are Merkin and Healy writing against?
- What are the goals and tactics/strategies of these movements?
- What are the larger controversies surrounding campus protests and #MeToo? Possible examples include freedom of speech, the question of due process, and the problems of or benefits to making complex issues fit a black-and-white or us-vs.-them framework.
- Are these movements’ tactics effective? Do they allow the group to achieve their own goals? Could they be improved in some way? How are they problematic or ineffective?
Format
- Length: 5 pages, double spaced
- Your essay should be formatted in MLA style and submitted as a Word document on Trunk.

Include an MLA Works Cited page with the essays you cite. For MLA citation guidelines, see your Little Seagull Handbook, pages 119-170. **Proper MLA citation is a part of your grade for this essay.**

Deadlines
- A **draft thesis statement and full outline** is due in class on Mon., March 12.
- A **full draft is due in class for a Peer Writing Workshop** on Wed., March 14.
- A **polished final draft** is due on Trunk by 5:00pm on Fri., March 16.