Analytical Essay 2:

In this essay, you are expected to give your own independent, interpretative position on the question below and to support your thinking with close reading and analysis. You will need to synthesize both texts and make connections between them. Utilize the skills we’ve practiced in class, especially on the Reading Quizzes.

**Texts:**

Arnade, Chris. “Back Row America.”*FirstThings.com*. June 2019.

Kleinfield, N.R. “The Lonely Death of George Bell.” *The New York Times*. October 17, 2015.

**Prompt:**

In both “The Lonely Death of George Bell” and “Back Row America,” we see how different but interconnected parts of the same society come to know each other, interact, and even care for each other. Whether it’s the financial crisis of 2008 or a single man’s death, these events motivate the authors to become aware of their own society differently, and to document it for others. For Arnade, he comes to see previously unknown parts of his city (and country) and realizes the assumptions he holds. For Kleinfield, he discovers a network of people and institutions in his own city that “care” for the deaths of people he didn’t know (and probably never would have).

Exploring their own cities by crossing thresholds and boundaries, Kleinfield and Arnade investigate how society is organized, and how we are supposed to respond to each other, especially when we carry different values. Through textual analysis of both essays, please respond to the following: **How does crossing boundaries to learn about something “unknown” or “lesser-known” contribute to society’s ability to care for each other?**

**Thinking to get started:**

* Both essays discuss New York City but offer different portraits. How is society organized in each essay?
* What boundaries are crossed in each essay? Are their good crossings and bad crossings? What are the authors’ perspectives?
* How is care demonstrated in both essays? Who shows care, and who is taken care of? What do they do? What is the effect? Make a list with columns for who, action, and outcomes.
* What is the relationship between individuals and institutions when it comes to organizing society? How do they interact and shape each other?

**Details to remember:**

Rough draft: 3 full pages Due: Tues 3/3, Canvas (noon) & in class. 2 hard copies.

Final draft: 4 full pages Due: Tues 3/9, Canvas & in class.

Formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced

MLA style: heading and title, 1” margins, parenthetical citations, Works Cited