Paper 3: There’s a Major Problem with my Major

The gist of this assignment is as follows: (1) to develop or identify a main question concerning a problem that exists within your chosen field of education; (2) to come to some fairly thorough understanding (analysis) of the issue at hand in terms of why it matters to the field; and (3) to argue for or against a particular answer to the question.

The key to this assignment is narrowing its focus by asking a specific question. For example, if you are an English major, the question “Does teaching solely Western literature benefit or harm students?” is too vague. A better question might be “Is teaching Shakespeare the best way to teach dramatic literature?” If you are an accounting major, you might start by asking “How can independent CPAs combat unemployment outside of the tax season?” If you are a chemistry student, your question may involve gender equality in the workforce. These are merely jumping off points.

There are, of course, other ways to begin this paper. Another way might be to find an article that you disagree with and start to hammer out the beginnings of why you disagree. Remember the Malcolm Gladwell speech from TedTalks: Harold Mosquowicz found that the available evidence for Pepsi and Nescafe were not adequate to the solution proposed.

The point of writing this paper is to synthesize all the work you have done to this point: you will have to define a problem, possibly in a manner than has not been previously identified; you will find and analyze evidence and how previous conclusions many no longer apply; and finally, you will have to argue for an answer—an answer that you may need to discover, or at the very least, evaluate.

This essay should be between 2000 and 3000 words and use MLA style. You are required to have at least 8 sources. The rough draft is due April 3rd and evaluation draft is due April 17th.