Dear English 103 students,

Welcome to the first day of class! I am so glad you have decided to join this class, and I look forward to getting to know each of you through your writing and discussions. This class will be conducted entirely online. **The first day of class begins Monday, August 21st at 8:00am.** The class will not be available until this date, so please wait until then to try to log in.

Canvas login: http://cv.canyons.edu/

My email: lorrie.wood@canyons.edu

Previously you might have used Blackboard to access online courses at College of the Canyons. College of the Canyons has changed systems to Canvas for our online classes. Login information will be emailed to you prior to the start of the course. If you haven't used Canvas before or want a refresher on Canvas, please visit the guides at cv.canyons.edu. Please make sure to orient yourself to all of the Canvas functions and have a working College of the Canyons email. Below are some links to some additional helpful information:

Setting up COC email account: https://my2.canyons.edu/WebAdvisor

Technical Questions: http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Distance_Learning/

Give yourself some time to feel comfortable; sometimes adjusting to the online environment takes a little bit of time. To help familiarize the class with the online learning forum, the first assignment will ask you to complete brief overview of what is known as “Netiquette.” You will find the details about this first assignment on the first day of class. This will help establish the way that we all work together in the Discussion Boards and assignments. Finally, take the time to read through this letter, as it contains important information for the course.

**Student Success is Attainable for Every Student**

Below are several ways to help you reach success in this class:

- **Access** to a working computer and the Internet is a necessity. Plan on logging in about every few days. You must have reliable, consistent Internet access with an up-to-date version of an Internet browser (please visit the list of supported browsers from Canvas if you have questions about whether or not your browser is compatible). In the case of technical problems with your computer, you might choose to make use of the computer labs on COC's campus.

- **Weekly Planning** will help you organize your time. Make sure to read through the entire calendar and note important due dates in your personal calendar.

- **Consistency** will help you avoid missing important due dates. Meeting online deadlines requires self-motivation and discipline. Do your best to create a routine to check in at the same time or on the same days each week.

- **Accountability** will help keep you focused. Using the Discussion Board as a starting point, find one or two people that you can email or call to help you stay on track with this course.

- **Accommodation** is available for all students under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Please make sure to make the instructor aware of any
accommodation needs as determined from the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) at College of the Canyons.

DSPS Contact Information:
Phone: (661) 362-3341
TDY: (661) 255-7967
Fax: (661) 362-5716

Course Description
In English 103, students examine the principles of critical thinking as applied to writing and reading arguments on complex issues. This course focuses on close textual analysis, argumentative/persuasive writing, and logical reasoning.

Student Learning Outcomes
· Evaluate the strength of written, visual, and multimedia arguments on a range of different issues and controversies.
· Compose logical, well-reasoned arguments on selected topics such as popular culture, politics, social issues, and moral and ethical issues.

Course Textbooks – Ebooks are available for both textbooks. I have included links.

Assignments
Throughout the course, you will compose three multi-paragraph research driven essays along with a final research project. Every paper will require you to complete a step-by-step writing process, which will be explained over the first week of class. Discussion boards will help us work through new writing terms, techniques, and strategies. In addition, the discussion boards will help reinforce the reading assignments. In addition to discussion boards, there will be an individual journal project. Students who actively and consistently participate in the course, tend to do well. Please email me regarding any concerns or questions. I believe that open communication is a key to learning.

Grades
You will find a detailed list of assignments and their points on the syllabus. Grades will be posted on a weekly basis. Please provide instructor about the same time to grade as is provided for assignment completion. In other words, if you have two weeks to write a
paper, please do not request grades sooner than two weeks. I am usually very prompt in providing grades.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and trust that this is going to be a great session!