Small Group Library Assignment: Media’s Imaging of Appalachia

For this assignment, you may choose to work alone, in pairs or in groups of three. One set of answers should be submitted to me, but each member of the group should make/keep copies of important material. You need to type and print a set of answers to the following questions. When submitting computer print-outs, be sure to highlight the information requested below. Consult the inside covers of *Entering Academic Conversations* for MLA format guidelines.

1) From the main page of the library website, click on “Find 3 Sources Fast.” Enter **EBSCOhost**. In the search box, type in *Appalachia and images*. Limit the search to full text.
   a) How many articles (hits) did you find?
   b) Scan the titles and provided information for articles that are of interest to you.
   c) Identify two by full publication information (author, title, volume, date, page, etc.)
   d) Either email those two articles to your home computer or copy the articles. Be sure to identify important publication information.

2) Change your search to *Appalachia and poverty*. Limit your search to WV, all available dates and full text.
   a) How many hits?
   b) What does this number suggest to you about how the media defines Appalachia?
   c) Find at least three articles that are especially pertinent to your search and follow directions for d above.

3) Enter **Lexis-Nexis**. In the search box, type *mountain top removal and West Virginia*. Limit the search to the past two years and full text.
   a) How many hits did you get?
   b) Scan the titles and opening paragraphs of at least five that appear to be pertinent to your search for the media’s imaging of Appalachia.
   c) Limit your search to two articles that you feel are especially compelling. Email or print those two articles. Highlight publication information.

4) Enter **MountainLynx**. Under subject (or keyword), type in *Appalachia*.
   a) How many hits did you get?
   b) Limit your search by narrowing it to works from the last five years (by time) or limit by subject (coal mining/stereotyping/literature). Be creative here! How many works did you find this time?
   c) Using the information you have gained from your answers to questions 1-3 above, what conclusions can you make about the language that is used to write about Appalachia?
5) Consider the many forms of media that might portray/discuss/reveal something of Appalachia. A few of these might be books, short stories, films, television programs, songs, poems, advertisements. Choose a form of media that is of interest to you. Now explore the offerings of Appalachia and ________ in any of the full text databases or Mountainlynx.
   a) How many hits?
   b) Obtain copies of two articles/books and write down/highlight full documentation information.

6) Go back to the main page. Look at the current selections in the Appalachian Collection. Choose three which you feel either promote Appalachian stereotypes or attempt to dispel them (by their titles and cover art). Provide titles, authors, full publication information, and a brief statement about why you feel this work deals with images in some way.

Good luck!!! Be sure to contact me if you have any questions.