Major Assignment #2: Archival Analysis and Evaluation

Assignment Description
For your second major assignment this semester, you will analyze your selected archive by applying evaluative criteria to it in order to answer a particular research question. As we learned in the previous unit, a digital archive, which scholars define as “any digital resource that collects and makes accessible materials for the purposes of research, knowledge building, or memory making” (Enoch and Van Haitsma 4), always has a rhetorical purpose and emerges in response to particular exigencies. This assignment will give you the opportunity to conduct a rhetorical analysis of how the archive responds to its exigency and evaluate how well it does so by answering 1 of the following questions.

• Is this archive an ethical representation of its material? If so, how? If not, in what ways could it be improved?
• What values does this archive privilege or forward? How does it do this, and is this approach fair and reasonable?
• The materials of the archive offer a snapshot of a particular person, event, time, or place. Each of the items in the archive offer a story or narrative. Which stories/which items are the most significant and why?
• Considering the voices present in the archive, how are they a fair and equitable representation of the larger social/cultural context? In what ways might there be avenues for improvement?

To prepare you to address these questions, during the course of this approximately 4-week unit, you will practice developing evaluative criterion and using them to analyze texts. You will compose a draft of your first major paper, receive feedback from your instructor, reflect on that feedback, and submit a final, revised version for evaluation. Formal in tone and style, the purpose of your paper will be to provide a well-reasoned answer to your selected question through analysis and evaluation.

Assignment Form & Weight
Your final paper will take the form of a 1,200-1,600 word written summary of your selected archive, and must include 3-5 screenshots, with captions. Formal in style and tone, this assignment is worth 200 points, or 20% of your total grade for the semester.

Important Dates
• Friday, March 3rd - Rough Draft and Homework 2 due to Dropbox by 5:00 P.M.
  o Rough draft must be complete
  o Homework 2 is worth 50 points, graded on completion
• Friday, March 10th - Annotated and Final Drafts due to Dropbox by 5:00 P.M.
  o Your Annotated Draft will be a revised version of your paper where I can see the revisions you have made in track changes. You may also insert comments in order to explain your revisions to me.
  o Your Final Draft is the completed version, with all changes finalized.
**Evaluative Criteria**
Your final draft will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Evaluation of the archive through the application of criterion
- Analysis of the archive’s rhetorical purpose provides a well-reasoned answer to a particular inquiry question
- Organization is consistent and effective for the essay’s purpose
- Style is appropriate for the essay’s purpose and audience
- Images and captions work as examples to help further the essay’s main claims

**Note: A detailed rubric breaking down each criterion will be provided**