Assignment #3a (due September 11th) – Is the Death Penalty a Human Rights Issue?
Compose a well crafted but brief (250 words or less) letter to the editor on the issue of whether or not capital punishment is a human rights issue. You may take any of a number of positions, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Capital punishment violates basic human rights. Its use should be restricted or abolished.
- Capital punishment violates basic human rights but is necessary. Its use should neither be restricted nor abolished.
- Capital punishment should be “fixed.” As employed it is flawed and therefore violates human rights. A less flawed application of capital punishment would not violate such rights.
- Capital punishment does not violate basic human rights.

Assume that your audience for this letter is the readership of the *Wooster Voice*, the campus newspaper of the College of Wooster. Be sure to present your argument(s) by stating your thesis, by providing evidence to back up arguments that you make, and by drawing a logical conclusion. Do not just state opinions. If you do wish to state your opinion, make sure to back it up with evidence or argumentation.

As always, our essay should be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with 1" margins on all sides. Please use an easily readable 12 pt. font (Times New Roman, Garamond, etc.).

Remember that, as NOTE #2 in our syllabus suggests, assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any missed assignment is subject to an automatic failing grade for the course (in other words, you cannot pass the class unless you do all of the work!). Late written assignments will be graded down up to one full letter grade for each day late. A paper handed in five minutes after class has begun is considered a full day late.