Paideia Discussion: Media Literacy

Part of understanding the how information shapes our lives involves understanding how the media that bombards us influences our opinions. Most of the time, once we decide where we stand on an issue, we refuse to communicate with others in a controlled, intellectual, and adult manner. A Paideia discussion is a prepared conversation that will teach you how to both agree and disagree with others constructively, a vital skill in our tumultuous political landscape. If you do not do the preparation, you cannot participate in the discussion and will receive a zero for class work for the day. Please do the following to prepare:

Read and annotate the following articles:

1. Fox News: “Strong US Growth Likely Drove Healthy Job Gain in July” <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/08/03/strong-us-growth-likely-drove-healthy-job-gain-in-july.html>
2. CNBC: “July Jobs Seen Strong but Wage Growth Could Again Disappoint” <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/02/july-jobs-seen-strong-but-wage-growth-could-again-disappoint.html>
3. *New York Times*: “Trump Tariff Will Cost American Jobs” <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/05/opinion/trump-tariff-americans-jobs.html>
4. One article of your choice related to articles one, two, and three (Bonus points in my heart if it is from your newsfeeds)

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the similarities between the articles? Think about wording, topics, *rhetorical devices*, etc.
2. What are the differences between the articles? Think about the wording, topics, *rhetorical devices*, etc.
3. Which article do you have the strongest emotional reaction to? Why? How does that effect how you read the article?
4. Which article seemed the most persuasive for to you? What rhetorical devices did it use?
5. What are the political leanings or biases in the articles? How do you know?
6. Do you trust these news sources? Why or why not?
7. Are you personally connected to this event in any way? How does that connection to the even affect how you interact with the text?

