Writing Assignment:  *The Working Poor*

For this assignment, you will have three options to write a reader response paper. Most of your writing skills will involve summary, analysis, explanation, and synthesis. You should have at least two but no more than three paragraphs.

Option One:
Section 1: Analyzing your own beliefs about the working poor.
   In the first paragraph (introduction), you will write one paragraph that sums up your ideas about poverty and those people who live in poverty. You will base this information on your own beliefs. In the same paragraph, identify, if any, your own experience with poverty (people you may have met; places you may have gone where there was a huge population of poor folks).

Section 2: You will find a current event relating to poverty.
   Find one credible news article that addresses issues relating to the poor in our state. You will summarize the article and respond to the article as far as how the article you chose supports your beliefs or is contrary to your beliefs. Hint: You may use articles relating to politics, business, education, or health care.

Option Two:
Section 1: Analyzing your own beliefs about the working poor.
   In the first paragraph (introduction), you will write one paragraph that sums up your ideas about poverty and those people who live in poverty. You will base this information on your own beliefs. In the same paragraph, identify, if any, your own experience with poverty (people you may have met; places you may have gone where there was a huge population of poor folks).

Section 2: Attend and respond to one of the scheduled events sponsored by the *One Book, One Community* (Complete schedule of events listed below). You will summarize the event by stating the person or organization involved in the event, the title of the event, and the main purpose of the event. Summarize the main points. You will analyze the event in terms of purpose, message, and effect. Was the purpose to educate you or was it to provide options to the poor? Was the message a popular message? What was the effect of the presentation on you and your beliefs?

Option Three:
Section 1: Analyzing your own beliefs about the working poor.
   In the first paragraph (introduction), you will write one paragraph that sums up your ideas about poverty and those people who live in poverty. You will base this information on your own beliefs. In the same paragraph, identify, if any, your own experience with poverty (people you may have met; places you may have gone where there was a huge population of poor folks).
Section 2: In the next paragraph, briefly respond to the book. In this section you will provide the main point of the book, which is the author’s thesis statement or purpose. Answer the following questions with examples or proof:

1. What is the author’s stance?
2. What was/were the author’s modes of persuasion? (logos, pathos, or ethos)
3. Did you find the author credible?
4. Did the book change your mind or beliefs about the poor?
5. How did this book change your own belief system about poverty and the poor?
6. Are you better off after reading this book? If the answer is yes, how so? If the answer is no, explain?
Schedule of *One Book, One Community* events

October 4, 7 p.m., Nightbird Books, *The Working Poor* songwriting contest and concert, hosted by Chris Goering

October 8, 3 p.m., Law School Room 328, Economics of Hunger, panel discussion led by Amy Robinson and others from Feed Fayetteville

October 10, 4 p.m., Law School Room 326, "Where the Law Doesn't Apply: Legal Rights in Poor Communities,” activities and interactive discussion, led by Professor Annie Smith

October 11, 6:30 p.m., Rolling Hills Baptist Church, 1400 E. Rolling Hills Drive, Fayetteville. Film, *Sacred Texts, Social Duty*, followed by panel discussion led by representatives of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

October 17, p.m., Law School Room 328, Film, *The Economics of Happiness*, followed by panel discussion led by Dr. Hershey Garner

October 18, 7-9 p.m., Grad Ed Auditorium, “Poverty and Schooling.” Featured speaker, Paul Thomas, Furman University, followed by panel discussion. Hosted by Sean Connors

October 19, 3:30 p.m., 208 Kimpel, Film, *Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Health Care*, followed by panel discussion led by Dr. Hershey Garner and Prof. Rob Leflar

October 20, All day on campus, “Make a Difference Day,” sponsored by Center for Community Engagement and Volunteer Action Center

October 22, 6 p.m., JBHT Room 149, Film, *Waging a Living*, followed by panel discussion led by representatives of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

October 23, 7 p.m., Giffels Auditorium, Old Main Room 201, “Poverty and Art,” lecture by Kevin Murphy, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

October 25, 6:30 p.m., Verizon Ballroom, Arkansas Union: Public lecture by David Shipler, author of *The Working Poor*