CS 4001 - Analyzing Arguments - 100 points

Format: max 2 pages, double spaced, 12 point Times-Roman font or similar. See class syllabus for required headers.

Grading criteria:

- Completeness
- Writing
- Insight into content/issues
- Insight into Form (writing) issues

Pick a short article (approx. 500-2000 words long) that takes a **strong position** on a controversial computing subject. The article should be from the last 3 years. Anything with a chip counts as "computing" in this case. This should be an **OPINION** article similar to an op-ed piece in a newspaper and not a factual/neutral article.

Some suggestions for article topics include:

- Should violent video games be banned, or their sale restricted to minors?
- Should cell phone use be banned in cars?
- Is the DOPA law restricting kids' access to social networking sites a good idea?
- Should the NSA continue to collect large amounts of meta data?
- Any topic about computing and society of your choice

Answer these questions about the article:

1. Who is the author? What is the place of publication? What do those things tell you about the point of view of the article?
2. What facts underlie the argument of the article? How are those facts documented? Are any of the things presented as facts disputable?
3. What values, beliefs, and assumptions are implicit in the article?
4. To really understand the issues better, what facts would you like to know/know more about?
5. How does the author use language to help make the point?
6. What might someone on the other side of the controversy argue? List 3 counterarguments.
7. Make a list of paragraph numbers, and make a does / says list for each paragraph (discussed in class, what the paragraph does, vs what it says). This may be in a table format.

Please write this as one coherent essay that addresses all these points, except #7. This means that your essay should **not** be a set of answers to individual questions. Use correct, clear English in writing your answers. Style & correctness count.

Submit to T-Square: Submit a PDF of this homework. Also, submit a PDF scanned copy of the article with your homework. If it was online, include the URL where you found the article in your assignment.

BRING TO CLASS: Bring a printout of your homework, as well as a copy of the article to class and be prepared to discuss your article in class with your group.