Spring 2017 English 1B  **Baseline Essay: On Optimism and Action**

After having read the Robert Reich essay “Change Isn’t Easy But It’s Possible” and the Justin Phillips essay “Breaking Bread & Barriers,” you should have some thoughts about the Millennial generation’s role in repairing the world. **Drawing from your own experiences and observations**, **write a response** to either of these essays or both, if you prefer. **You MUST include at least one reference to one or the other essay, plus material from your own observations.**

* **METHODS**: Develop and support your own ideas with examples, stories; use compare/contrast, whatever you think would be effective. **Basically, you are writing the same kind response as these newspaper columns get from the public when they’re posted online, just longer.**
* **LENGTH, FORMAT**: Aim for 300-500 words. Type double-spaced, in MLA format.
* **AUDIENCE**: You’re writing for the audience who would have read the original essays in their original forum, so minimize your summary of the readings—they’ve read them too. Of course, your 1A classmates and teacher are also part of the audience, so don’t write what you wouldn’t want me to read in class.
* **CRITERIA**: This isn’t a graded essay, but I will comment on them so you’ll get a sense of my standards. As when I do grade these, I’ll be looking at how well you **meet the goals of the assignment,** the **depth of thinking**, **development** of the ideas, **coherence/organization**, **grammar/style**, and **voice** (which is basically how well your personality comes across and how well you adjust your voice to your audience).