**First-Year Seminar (Wilson Section)**

*Short Paper Assignment #1 -- QAnon*

(Due by email to [mwilson@wooster.edu](mailto:mwilson@wooster.edu) by Monday, September 2, 7:30 am)

Your assignment is to view again the YouTube video entitled “The Plan to Save the World”. (We will view it first in class. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVeDKuHPDK8> It is linked from our website as well.) It is essentially a dramatic account of the QAnon conspiracy from believers. You will then write a roughly 1500-word essay assessing the arguments, rhetoric and persuasive elements of this presentation. (This assignment sheet is 284 words.) Here are the guidelines –

1. What is the primary thesis of the presentation? What argument are the videographers making? In other words, what do they want you to understand?

2. What rhetorical techniques do you see in this video? These need not be formally titled. Basically, how is the video constructed to convince you of their arguments?

3. Do you see any logical fallacies in the video’s arguments?

4. Peruse the comments (there are thousands, so just skim through some!) and the likes/dislikes and tell me whether there has been a receptive audience for the video. What are some comments that stand out for you?

5. Note that I’m not interested in your **politics**. I want your **analysis**.

6. The paper itself –

a. Write it in Microsoft Word, if possible.

b. You can double-space or single-space it.

c. Make sure your name is at the top of the first page and in the document name.

d. Email your final version to me as an attachment ([mwilson@wooster.edu](mailto:mwilson@wooster.edu)).

e. This essay is due in my email by 7:30 am on Monday, September 2. Send it early!

f. Late papers receive a 10% for every *hour* they are late. Don’t be late.

g. We will make time to discuss this assignment on Friday, so start early.

