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

*Short Paper Assignment 2 – Flat Earth*

(Due by email to [mwilson@wooster.edu](mailto:mwilson@wooster.edu) by Friday, September 13, 7:30 am)

On Friday and Monday we will view as a class the excellent documentary *Behind the Curve*. Your writing assignment is to answer the following questions with one paragraph each. *This assignment document is also posted on our course website.* The questions to answer are –

1. What motivates a typical Flat Earth believer? Why do they so vigorously insist on what is still a very marginal viewpoint?

2. What rhetorical techniques do you see in this documentary? These need not be formally titled. How is the documentary constructed to convince you of a particular perspective?

3. Do you see any logical fallacies in the documentary’s arguments? If so, describe them.

4. How would you characterize the experimental techniques of the Flat Earthers in this documentary? Are they following the “scientific method”?

5. Finally, do some post-viewing research: What has happened to **Patricia Steere** since this documentary was released? Why?

6. The paper itself –

a. Write it in Microsoft Word. You all have shown you can do it!

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 Friday, September 13. Attachment only.

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

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

