After watching Andy Rooney’s video, “Impending Doom” and discussing it with the class:

- Read the introduction to this nonfiction piece (Red Lit Book, p.373). Pay attention to the “Enrich Your Reading” section about using facts and opinions to persuade readers to accept your point of view. Discuss the points made with the class.

- Read America the Not-so-Beautiful.

- After reading the essay, complete the following (individually):
  1. What feelings does Rooney’s article trigger in you? Describe them briefly.
  2. In your opinion, which of the problems Rooney discusses is the most serious? Why?
  3. Rooney states, “Prosperity in the United States is based on using things up as fast as we can, throwing away what’s left, and buying new ones.” Explain what he means by this and give your opinion towards the idea.
  4. Rooney’s article was written in 1989 (over 20 years ago). Based on your observations, is our trash crisis now better, the same, or worse than he reports.
  5. List three specific examples (each) of how the author uses both facts and opinions to help persuade his audience to accept his view.
  6. Rooney also uses humor in this piece to help keep his audience’s attention. At the same time though he uses humor to cloak serious ideas. Give an example of Rooney using humor in this piece. What serious message is he trying to convey?

"What I've always hoped to do with my writing is to say, in so many words, some of the ideas that lurk, wordlessly, in the minds of a great many people."

-ANDY ROONEY