Mini Research Assignment Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Celebrity Fall from Grace Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_

Choose a well-known person (athlete, musician, actor, politician, leader, etc…) who suffered a scandalous fall from grace in the media and/or in the court of public opinion.

* Let Mrs. Clay know your celebrity choice BEFORE you begin extensive research. No more than one person in the class may research each celebrity.
* Use reputable sources to research the person to learn the relevant facts and details. Take notes and save sources as you go – MINIMUM OF 2 SOURCES PROPERLY CITED. (You may use Google and Wikipedia for background reading, but do not use these in your citations. When possible, confirm all facts with scholarly sites such as the GALE database or Google Scholar.)
* After reading and researching, decide which side you are on. Did the celebrity deserve the fall from grace or not? Your ultimate goal is to write a persuasive speech (formatted as a 5-paragraph essay) in which you convince the audience to believe as you do.

i.e: The public was justified in shaming (not supporting or boycotting) this celebrity. **OR**

The public was wrong to shame this celebrity and should support this person again.

* Consider using EverNote or EasyBib to organize your research/sources if you are digitally savvy. Otherwise, be diligent in notetaking, citing, and organizing or your own paper or note cards.
* Create an outline for your essay to ensure that you have a well-developed, persuasive argument: Introduction, 2 or 3 Claims + Evidence, Counter Claim, Conclusion. This outline may be handwritten or typed.
* Turn your outline into a well-written, five paragraph essay that you will be able to present to the class, either through a live, classroom speech or a PowerPoint presentation containing all parts of your persuasive argument in a visually pleasing manner.
* Remember to give proper credit to any sources you use. Plagiarism will result in significant loss of points.
* Avoid using first person (I, me, mine, my, we, our, etc…) in your essay or speech. If you are writing or speaking, I will know any opinions given are yours; therefore, there is no need to say “I think” or “I believe.”
* Timeline:

1/11 Monday – Project assigned. Choose celebrity. Research.

1/13 Wednesday – Review Outline Format. Research and work on outline.

1/15 Friday – Review Thesis Statements, Claims, & Counter Claims. Work on outline.

1/20 Wednesday – Review Transitional Expressions. Outline checked in class. Work on essay and presentation.

1/22 Friday – Review format of Works Cited and In-text Citations. Work on essay and presentation.

1/26 Tuesday – In-class presentations – PowerPoint and live speeches

1/28 Thursday – In-class presentations – remaining live speeches