March 25: Bring Three Secondary Sources from a library database to class (can be on your computer or physical sources)

March 27: Research Proposal (You are committing to a topic and may not change your mind after this date. The research proposal should be a well-developed paragraph saying what topic you will pursue and laying out your research plan. Include a list of possible sources in MLA style. Submit as a hard copy during class.

April 3: Annotated Bibliography—The bibliography is a list of the three secondary sources that you will use in your paper with a brief summary of each and how the source is relevant for your paper. The bibliography should list the sources in MLA style with a short paragraph of summary under each source. Your audience should understand the content of each source from your summary and have a sense of how the work connects to your paper. Keep in mind that our library may not subscribe to the journal you need or have the book you wish to use, so leave time to get the source through interlibrary loan or be prepared to go to USF. Use the following links for help with creating an annotated bibliography: Purdue Owl and Cornell University Library. All secondary sources must come from library databases. Bring a hard copy to class.

April 5-8: Writing Day—Bring sources and laptop to class.

April 10: Draft Due (Bring a hard copy to class.)

April 12: Final Draft Due (Submit on D2L and bring a hard copy to class.)

Follow MLA style, including having a works cited page. I will be evaluating MLA style and documentation as part of the paper’s grade.

The whole point of research is to answer a question. What questions do you have after reading Born a Crime? What would you still like to investigate? There are a whole range of topics that are raised by Trevor Noah, including but not limited to: corporal punishment, writing, government, colonialism, law, racism, economics, sexism, abuse, tribalism, language, apartheid, religion, rebellion, poverty, parenting, pop culture, art, the prison system, and education (and more). What topic seems important to you? What do you want to know more about? After making that decision, what is it that you want to know? What is your question? For example, I might ask what is the connection between education and poverty. But that’s too big. So now I’ll have to figure out how to narrow that. One solution is to ask the more specific question of how education of blacks was connected to poverty in South Africa during apartheid. Or, if I wanted to make connections back to my own culture, I could ask the same question of the American South before the Civil Rights movement. Or I might ask the same question about undocumented workers today in the U.S. I’m leaving this pretty wide open for you. You can stick with Born a Crime using it as a primary source and research an issue that helps you to better understand the book. Or, if you want to move beyond the book for this paper, pick one of the issues raised by Noah and investigate its significance in your own life or current issues.

Think of research as entering a conversation. You need to know what others have to say on this topic before you can articulate your own argument, and you need
to show your readers that you are aware of all the necessary information about this issue. Think ethos (showing you are an authority and addressing counter arguments) and logos (having plentiful evidence for support).

Your audience is an academic one, so do not write the word you. Use the sources as a way to give context and support for your ideas and to incorporate counter arguments. Do not let the sources overwhelm your paper. This is your argument, not a summary of what others have to say.

The paper should be about five pages (probably, just a recommendation, but I can’t see it being shorter).

Please copy and paste onto the last page of your essay:

This essay is my own original work written for this class. I have documented all outside sources.