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## Academic

Lucas Johnson  
*Butler University*

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## *Academic*

To most, the thought of writing out an academic essay – doing research, coming up with an arguable thesis, compiling and citing sources – sounds like a total drag. To these authors, it’s an opportunity to produce something groundbreaking, something that innovates, and excites, something that holds its own.

In this segment of *The Mall*, first year students are allowed to explore topics that are important to them, and establish themselves as legitimate, credible writers. Each piece is expertly crafted: containing a wealth of analysis and combining outside sources with thoughtful use of textual/video evidence.

Some pieces are short and sweet, like John Waterman’s “Classism and the Fervent Pursuit of the American Dream: A Further Look into Tom Ripley in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*”, while other pieces, like Kolton Bailey’s “Batman the Philosopher-King: The Juxtaposition of Plato’s Ideal City and Batman’s Gotham” span pages and include fully annotated bibliographies.

*The Mall*’s greatest strength however, something it has demonstrated year after year, is its ability to showcase Butler’s diverse spectrum of interests and opinions. Take “Saying “Bi Bi” to Exclusive Feminism”, by L.F. for example, a piece which highlights how exclusive feminism has forgotten the LGBTQ+, or “No Country for Young Rappers: The Similarities Between Lewellyn Moss and Kendrick Lamar”, by Kyle Schwartz, which presents a fresh new spin on a classic movie.

No matter your interests, there’s something for you. The *Academic* section begins now.

Sincerely,  
*Lucas Johnson, Editor*