The brief wondrous life of Oscar Wao.  Paper details A critical essay summarizes, analyzes, and responds to an argument, political situation, social phenomenon, historical event, written text, work of art, movie, or performance. In this case, you will be responding to a written text, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao. You will recall, the book centers on Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, the novel opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere, and risk it all, in the name of love. For this assignment, you will choose one (1) of the following prompts and write a well-argued, well-supported, formal, literary analysis essay. 1. In Oscar Wao, the characters are often confronted with overwhelming love as well as with unspeakable violence. Both serve as fuel that keeps the characters going. Which one is more powerful? Do love and violence work for each other or against each other? 2. Oscar is referred to as a hero. Why is Oscar referred to as a hero and what type of hero is he? Include a discussion on the differences/similarities between being an immigrant, an outsider, and a hero. 3. Neither Lola or Belicia were satisfied with their lives; why were Lola and Belicia so unhappy and did they have the same reasons for being discontented? 4. Dominican masculinity is a central theme in the novel. Why is it so important, and how does it influence the unfolding of the plot? 5. The dictator Trujillo is a real historical figure that Díaz inserts into his novel. In what ways is Trujillo’s character able to affect the fictional characters of the story? In terms of a “thesis” or central idea for your essay, you can begin by formulating a response to the prompt you selected. Then, craft a very rough sentence or two (your draft thesis/position) that you will support with evidence from the text (quotes and phrases). In terms of research, you will need to include two (2) secondary sources (that is, written credible sources that also focus on your ideas). They should be selected from credible sources, such as the University of Louisville’s Databases (https://library.louisville.edu/az.php). I suggest starting with JSTOR. Wikipedia, dictionary.com, encyclopedias, etc., are not credible sources. For help with sources, see “Writing About Literature” and associated materials posted under Resources (I will be posting a host of writing resources for you). Also see the UofL Writing Center website and google Purdue OWL. You are writing to an audience of your college peers who may already be familiar with your topic but who would also be open to a new way to “read” it. Your goal is to try to get them to understand the implications of your critical approach to the text. Formatting and Other Requirements: Your critical essay must be three-to-four, full, pages (i.e., 2 and ½ pages will not be graded), double-spaced, written in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. It must be written in MLA format, 8th edition, which includes the following elements below (Additional guidelines and examples are posted to bb. Also reference the Writing Center and Purdue OWL): • An original title (Do not title your essay “critical paper.”) • Page numbers in upper right hand corner • Double-spacing throughout, even header and title • Your name, HUMA U102, instructor name, and due date for this assignment in upper left hand corner. • A “Works Cited” page in MLA format, 8th edition, which includes your primary text and three secondary sources. You should have a total of at least three (3) entries on your Works Cited page: which includes the Díaz’s text and 2 secondary sources. (This is a separate page that is still included in your total page count.) Goals: This assignment is designed to stimulate critical thinking and help you: • Develop an appreciation and awareness of the values important to members of unique cultural groups in the United States. • Demonstrate how historical, social, and cultural structures and processes affect life experiences and opportunities of individuals and/or groups in the U.S. • Identify, interpret, and evaluate evidence from different multiple points of view. • Identify, summarize, and evaluate high quality, credible, secondary sources that are appropriate for the discipline • Communicate your ideas effectively in academic writing