To help MALS faculty assess your current analytical and writing skills, please read the article located at the noted URL, and respond to the prompt below:

In his article “Liberal Arts and Liberal Education,” (URL: http://www.ashbrook.org/publicat/onprin/v6n3/flannery.html) Christopher Flannery notes that “[e]very art, or craft, or technical skill . . . may be used in the service of justice or injustice, good or evil.” In a cultural moment many perceive as one of crisis, Flannery asserts that it is the liberal arts that might provide scholars, educators, and students, with direction in more than technological or quantitative terms: “We need not feel an undue sense of crisis if we find ourselves . . . compelled again to ask basic if not simple questions . . . that we have learned to ignore.”

In an essay of no more than five double-spaced pages, engage Flannery’s perspective as a means of developing your own statement about why you desire to pursue a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree. Briefly summarize Flannery’s argument, then analyze specifically how his contentions about the value and potential of the liberal arts resonate with your own background, mindset, and aspirations. What are the ramifications of his position in regard to your intended pursuit of graduate liberal studies? Comment on the linkages between interdisciplinarity and archival studies.

Please send your completed essay as a Word file attached to an email to the MALS liaison in the School of Graduate Studies, Ms. Jessimine Strauss (straussj@etsu.edu) as soon as possible. Once he has your writing sample, he will place it with your other application materials. Once your application packet is complete, Mr. Strauss will send it to the MALS Director Dr. Marie Tedesco, who then will communicate further with you about arranging an admissions interview in person, by phone, or by Skype.