4.03 Activity 3 – Retooling Production

Retool - to fit out (a factory, for example) with a new set of machinery and tools for making a different product.

Production - to cause to have existence [bring about] b: to give being, form, or shape to [make], especially manufacture

In response to the current coronavirus pandemic, there is a huge need for medical supplies and equipment in quantities we could not anticipate or even imagine. Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, face shields, gloves, etc., are in great demand, and there simply is not enough to satisfy needs. Medical equipment, especially ventilators which are crucial to treatment for this virus, are also in short supply.

Many companies have begun to retool their manufacturing sites to produce these necessary items, even when they had never produced them before. Research and respond to the questions below.

1) Summarize what each of these producers is currently doing to contribute to the effort around coronavirus elimination:
   a) NASCAR
   b) Ford
   c) General Motors
   d) Toyota
   e) Oakley Glasses
   f) My Pillow
   g) Add a company not mentioned above who has also retooled to contribute a product which is not one of their standard offerings, in other words, not something they have routinely produced in the past.

2) Explain the Defense Protection Act.
   Prior to 2019, when was this Act last invoked and for what reason?
   Has President Trump yet invoked this act against any manufacturer? Who and why?

3) Read the article, “What Everyone’s Getting Wrong About the Toilet Paper Shortage,” by Will Oremus, April 2, and explain why the shortage is not simply the result of people stocking up. What does toilet paper have to do with the pandemic? Why can’t toilet paper manufacturers simply make more toilet paper?