Spring 2014 Sophomore English PBA

With Mr. Leon

Dates:

12/22--Thesis Statement (Including evidence)

05/28--Detailed Outline: Outline should detail each topic sentence as well as detail how each body paragraph will be developed (Reading due 5/29)

06/03--First Draft (Reading due 06/05)

06/10--Final Draft

Sophomores present their English PBAs in June; this year assessment week will take place from June 13th - June 20th.

Contents of the Sophomore PBA:

1. Comparative Essay. You may choose from TWO of the following texts:
* *Slaughterhouse Five*
* *Siddhartha*
* *The Alchemist*
* *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
* *No Exit*
* *Waiting for Godot*
* *Existentialism is a Humanism\**

\* Only if you choose to use this text as a critical lens.

1. Creative project (choose from one already completed)
2. Existential Mini-production
3. Closing Letter

The 10th grade PBA requirement, like the one you completed for the 9th grade, includes an essay component and a creative component. Additionally, you will also have to complete a final group presentation—the existential mini-production. While this comparative PBA is far more complex as you are forced to consider two substantial texts in 4-5 pages the structure, format, and skills that you practiced in prior essays will be the same.

OPTIONS FOR COMPARATIVE ESSAY TOPICS

Questions to consider (Obviously I am not expecting you to consider all of these questions. They are merely to serve as seeds that may give birth to your thesis):

• What is your frame of reference (This is the context within which you place the two things you plan to compare and contrast; it is the umbrella under which you have grouped them.)? What are your grounds for comparison (The rationale behind your choice of frame of reference)? What key literary element(s) do the authors use in order to convey the theme? How is the authors’ treatment of theme different/similar? How do the two novels compare/contrast in terms of how they convey the role of the individual in society? Why do they have similar and/or different views on this topic? In what light is society portrayed in both texts? How do the novels treat the theme of morality? How do the protagonists respond to their environments? How do the texts differ in their depiction of the human will to survive?

Possible Literary Elements (this is not an exhaustive list):
Setting
Motifs
Symbolism

Irony
Language (figurative language, dialect, etc.)

Character
Point of view
Cultural context (i.e., time period in which it was written, author’s background, etc.)

General Requirements:

* 5 pages
* Comparative or Critical Lens/Comparative

General Formatting:

* Double-spaced; size 12 font; Times New Roman or similar
* .75 margins on both left and right sides. Indentations-- .5” or 1 tab space.
* All pages beyond the first page should be numbered. Page numbers should be placed at the bottom right of each page.
* No Cover Page. Include name, class/band, and date in upper left-hand corner of first page only
* Be sure TITLE reflects the theme of the essay.
* Include Title, Author, and General Theme of work in first paragraph of essay…For Example—Jean Paul Sartre’s *No Exit*
* Follow MLA guidelines

Order of Arrangement:

* Final Draft on top. Staple or fasten with a paperclip.
* 1st Draft—with significant corrections made + name and signature of reader
* Detailed Outline—with significant corrections made + name and signature of reader

Avoid the Following:

* Avoid Pronouns: I, it, you, me, we, us
* Avoid Troublesome language. DO NOT USE ANY of the following words: it, these, this, those, kind of, almost, seems, maybe, like, then, later, eventually, basically, so, many, a lot, things, due to the fact (or any variations of the fact that), in reality, very, really, forms of the verb “to be”
* In the intro, nix all book-review commentary—i.e. “is fascinating, interesting…”
* Be extremely careful with your use of all words…yet, for these words in particular, don’t think they are cheap: Truth, Beauty, Love, Nature, Reality

Keys to Good Writing:

* Cohesion—Every sentence fits together; paragraphs flow smoothly. Ensure that the entire discussion comes together as one unified discussion of your text and its context.
* Concision—Less is more. Use fewer words to explain yourself. Begin fusing sentences by merging ideas into tightly knit phrases.
* Precision—Accuracy. Use words that accurately capture what you mean. Don’t settle for words or expressions that come close.
* Coherence—Does your essay make sense? Are your ideas organized in a logical sequence? Do you prove your thesis? Do the parts contain the essence of the whole?