Senior Writing – Final Exam (10% Final Grade) Senior Composition

Compose four pieces of writing based on the four following prompts. The length of each piece may be approx. 1 page long (about 20-30 minutes of development each).

Each piece asks you to reinforce some of the key components of each unit, which are listed as bullet-points. Focus mostly on the components of the *body argument* to each piece which we have studied; you do not need to spend a lot of time developing introductory context, since it is provided already with prescribed reading materials. You are partially being assessed on your ability to process this information.

You must remain off your phones and technological devices until the end of the exam. Dictionaries and thesauri are provided to assist you.

1. Informative Writing

Try to evaluate and understand the controversial issue indicated in the article provided, without pushing your personal bias. Offer a thorough description of both parties' beliefs, with an attempt to extract the deeper motivations and values behind their stance.

- Maintain an **objective voice**, while offering **equal tonal critique** between both groups if possible. What are the positive and negative aspects of people on both sides?

- Offer a thorough **analysis of the issue's complexity** and why it is not easy to resolve.

- Is a compromise possible between the two groups?

2. Narrative Writing

You are to generate a brief narrative which incorporates the following narrative elements:

- vivid sensory descriptions (**imagery**)

- dialogue

- present **action** and conflict

- characterization (perhaps of a friend, or person you were in conflict with)

**Select either of the following prompts.**

Describe an active, interactive moment when:

A. you faced a decision and didn’t know what to do.

B. you changed your opinion on how you felt about something.

C. something did not turn out the way you had expected.

D. someone was depending on you, and you either failed them or came through for them.

3. Argumentative Writing

Study the article provided, articulate your idea for an adequate solution or response to the issue, and support your claim with multiple reasons. How do you feel we can make change for a greater society?

- Be direct with your central claim, and support it with **key details**.

- Anticipate your reader's objections and offer a **counter-argument** to the common criticism you might face.

- For style, try to incorporate a mixture of logic/analysis and *pathos* (emotion, sympathy). We often achieve this by shifting from a broad scope view of the global population to a narrower one which focuses on individuals and close groups.

4. Speculative Writing

Study the article provided, and try to speculate and various reasons behind the issue.

- Offer a **variety of explanations** for the conditions indicated in the article.

- Maintain an inquisitive, speculative voice rather than an argumentative one.

- Offer a **tonal critique** of the people involved with the issue.

**Good Luck with Finals and with all your future endeavors! Thank you for a great semester!**

