English II – One-paragraph Essay on Short Stories 10 “Formal Writing” Points

You are to compose a single body-paragraph essay on one of the short stories we have read recently. The main areas of assessment are your abilities to organize language effectively, to select effective citations (quotes or paraphrases), and to make original interpretive inferences (“lead-outs”).

Please note, even though this is technically ‘one paragraph’, you are highly encouraged to open your essay with a brief introduction identifying your main focus, and to close your writing with a conclusive statement.

Consider the following topics for your essay, or discuss an original idea with me in advance:

TOPIC A: What do “Indian Camp”, “Chicxulub”, or “Gravel” teach us about **death, loss, and mortality**? How does the author want us to view our own mortality, or handle the loss of others? How are we meant to react to our experiences with death and loss? Are human beings basically strong or weak creatures (physically and emotionally)? What are the consequences of reacting to death and loss the incorrect way?

TOPIC B: What do “Miracle Polish”, “The TV”, or “Dungeon Master” teach us about **confidence and self-image**? What is the effect of trying to ‘escape’ one’s true self? How are we meant to view or deal with our own flaws? What are the consequences of hiding or running away from the things you don’t like about yourself?

*\*Do not feel like you need to answer every question stated in the prompt. They are guiding questions to help you develop your own original thesis.*

Criteria:

- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced. No wild fonts or unnecessary bolds, underlines.  
 -Three specific citations required for evidence (quote or paraphrase) + adequate development.

- Put a title and your name at the top center of the paper. (And use the same font.)

- Read your final draft aloud several times to catch awkwardness and errors. Use spell check.

- Refer to my policy on lateness: 10% deduction with each week it is late.

**- Adhere strictly to the policy on cheating and plagiarism.**

**SUBMIT ON TURNITIN.COM BY THE DUE DATE (TBA; refer to Infinite Campus due dates.)**