**English 120 – Common Final**

* ***Monday December 11th -* 6:30 – 8:50 AM** 
  + **On MONDAY December 4: I give you the readings**
  + **6 articles (1 – 1.5 pages) ALL on the same topic** 
    - **1 week to read and annotate the articles (highlighting, making notes in the margins, etc)**
    - **On the day of the final, the articles will be the only “notes” you will permitted**
    - **We will have NO discussion of the articles prior to the exam**
    - **Feel free to do external research on the topic, however, any notes you want to use on the exam need to be written on the essay packet**
  + **“ON the final exam, students must make reference to AT LEAST two of the articles in the packet and cite all paraphrases (summaries) and quotes using the the MLA parenthetical method. (Author + pg #). NO works cited page is required.**
  + **You will have two hours**

**What you need to do to get a passing mark on the exam (*aka, what readers are going to be looking for*)**

**3 (non-passing)**

**4 (passing)**

**🡪 3rd reader (deciding score)**

* **Topic: Higher education 🡪 cost of education 🡪 free or more affordable college**
* **Stay on topic; don’t go off topic (“wandering”)**
* **Don’t repeat yourself (“As stated before,” “as previously mention”)**
* **Use a mixture of direct quoting, paraphrasing, and integrated quoting**
* **Use a mix of signaling** 
  + **Signal author for authority: In a 2015 article by Bernie Sanders, “Make college free for all,” the author notes… (1)**
  + **Signal the title & the source: In recent article for the *Washington Post* entitled “College doesn’t need to be free,” the author discusses… (Lane 2)**
  + **Signal an article by author and source: In addition, a 2016 article by Sara Goldricki-Rab for *Education Next* observes that… (3)**
* **ALWAYS cite when you have finished your quote/integration with either a page number or the author’s last name + page number**
* **DIRECTLY state your thesis in the introduction. Make sure it is clear and that it IS a statement.** 
  + **Thesis statement responds to the thesis question on the prompt.**
  + **It’s OK to use the words/language of the prompt question in your thesis statement**
* **Make sure your body paragraphs are specific to a point you are making.** 
  + **One BP = One point** 
    - **Have a thesis statement in place before you write your first BP**
    - **You do NOT need to have a full introduction at the start of your essay; *you can write that last*.**
  + **First sentence of BP = topic sentence (the argument or point of the BP)**
  + **Topic sentence 🡪 1 – 2 sentences of development 🡪 use of source (signal + quote/integration) 🡪 citation 🡪 interpretation (3 sentences minimum)** 
    - **Make sure that your interpretations go with the topic sentences**
  + **Contextualized writing: multiple sources per BP**
* **ALWAYS transition when you start a new BP (make sure they are logical)**
  + **“In addition,” “Additionally,” “Furthermore,” “By contrast,” “However,”**
* **Length:** 
  + **Expectations: 2 hours of writing = 1.5 single spaced pages per 45 minutes** 
    - **3.5 to 5 pages**
    - **Length suggestive of development**
    - **We want to see the prompt question(s) answered directly and fully**
    - **Language concerns: secondary. We are interested in how well you comprehended you reading and how well you can develop ideas.**
    - **Avoid really big mistakes:** 
      * **Run-ons**
      * **Fragments**
      * **INFORMAL language/slang**
      * **“You”**
    - **Prefer simple, clear sentences rather than long, cumbersome and potentially grammatically problematic sentences.**
    - **Avoid vocabulary that you are not 100% sure of.**
    - **Keep to a formal tone**
* **The concept of “I’m Finished”** 
  + **Essays DO pass without a conclusion**
  + **Essays DO NOT pass without development of content**
  + **Essays that repeat themselves DO NOT PASS**
  + **Essay with some language issues DO PASS**
  + **A few grammar errors are OK. UNLESS there is a pattern**