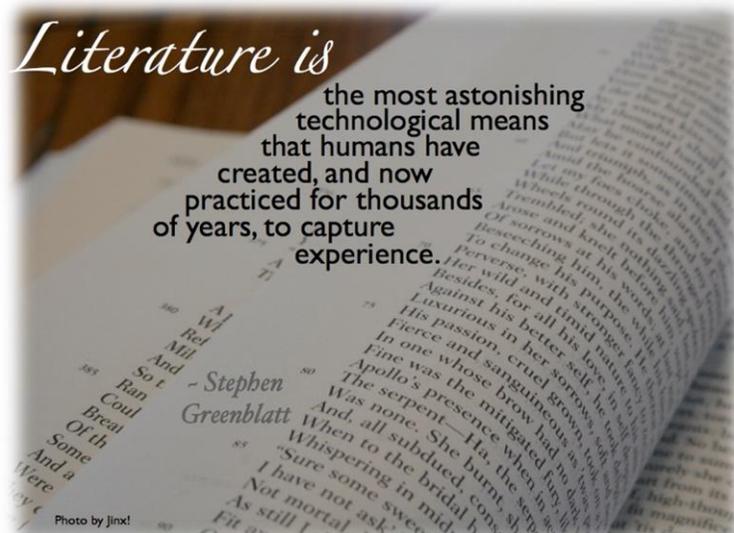


English 12 – Initial writing assignment



Why are we here?.... (you know, in this classroom) and.... hopes and fears....

Greetings. Welcome back to the English classroom. Anxious? Excited? Both? Well, the truth is that I am both. Some truths about teachers:

- We get anxious...
 - Will students enjoy my class?
 - Will I enjoy my classes?
 - How do I achieve both?
 - Will I succeed in my goals?
 - What are my goals? (getting good results from my students... recognizing effort... imparting skills but also insights... and all the other English curriculum stuff)
- We have BIG hopes that sometimes get lost in the everyday details of being in a class. My hopes are to...
 - Praise the effort, not just the results
 - Get to know each of you in some way
 - Recognize, despite your skill level, how each of you is great!



- Reveal how Literature addresses the essential questions about what it means to be human
- Reveal how literature connects to our everyday lives
- Leverage the technology to help you in your learning, but also help you to reflect on how technologies “mediate and change our lives.” (Michael Wesch)
- Impress upon you that in a world of information overload, it is important to read!

WOW! Ok – good luck to all of us!

So now you know a bit about me and some of my thoughts about English Studies 12 this semester. What are yours? Below are two graphics of essential questions. I want you to pick any five of them (from either or both) and address your thoughts on the questions in an authentic, interesting, creative and holistic way. This is mostly a way for me to gain an insight into who you are and what is important to you, but it is also an opportunity to 'show your stuff' in terms of your writing and your critical thinking abilities, so.....here are the nitty gritty details

- Have a title that reflects your chosen prompts (Name, course and date would be good too)
- edit your work as best you can before you hand it in (look for run-ons, fragments, capitalization, spelling and word usage errors)
- think creatively, critically and with originality – the prompts are to **inspire your thoughts**. So, try to answer them in a holistic way: “**Holistic writing** is about mastering the art of looking at the big picture in its entirety before even putting pen to paper. It's starting with the sum rather than the individual parts.” Try to see connections between prompts; not overlap – connections!
- try your hand at some writing techniques: perhaps a metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, descriptive imagery, incorporate a favourite quote, lyrics or proverb to enhance your thoughts...make your piece more interesting and compelling to read!
- Length – around 150 – 200 words per question or 850 - 1000 words in total (you might give some of the questions more attention than others); Font size 12 – regular margins – spacing = 1.5. Roughly two pages. At the bottom of your document, please put the number of the prompts you chose to address and from which graphic. So, if you did it right, it should look like this: Green graphic: 11, 26; Brown Graphic: 5, 28, 38
- Turn in to TEAMS as per the instructions on TEAMS

26 Questions Every Student Should Be Able To Answer

1. What do I need to know about you?
2. What do you need from me most?
3. What does success in the classroom mean to you?
4. What do you know about how people learn?
5. What's the most creative thing you've ever done?
6. How can technology be used for learning?
7. What does it mean to understand something?
8. What's the most recent complex problem you've solved?
9. How do you respond to expectations?
10. What is your proudest moment?
11. What do you want to learn about?
12. Are you a picky reader? What are your strengths as a reader?
13. What is your personal philosophy?
14. When do you write best?
15. What's worth understanding deeply?
16. What are your habits as a thinker?
17. What's most important to you in life?
18. What is the relationship between learning, and #17?
19. Where does your inner drive come from?
20. Who are your heroes or role models?
21. Why study (insert your content area here)?
22. What are you good at that nobody knows?
23. What do teachers sometimes misunderstand about you as a learner?
24. What does it mean to study?
25. How do you respond to complex texts or digital media?
26. If I get out of your way this year, what will you be able to do?

TeachThought.com

50 Questions Every Student Should Be Able To Answer Before They Graduate High School

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. What are people 'for'?</p> <p>2. Who and 'where' am I?</p> <p>3. What do I know, and what can and should I do with what I know?</p> <p>4. What do I love?</p> <p>5. What kinds of questions should I be asking on a daily basis—of myself and the people and world around me?</p> <p>6. What kinds of conversations should I be having with whom, and how?</p> <p>7. When am I at my best?</p> <p>8. What do I 'believe'?</p> <p>9. What's the difference between a fact and an opinion?</p> <p>10. How can I discuss something with someone I disagree with?</p> <p>11. What is the relationship between my thinking, my beliefs, and my behavior?</p> <p>12. What sorts of thinking and information should</p> | <p>26. What are my goals?</p> <p>27. How can I learn something from everyone I meet?</p> <p>28. What is the difference between you 'work,' a 'job,' and a 'career'?</p> <p>29. How do I respond to challenges?</p> <p>30. What are my sources of stability?</p> <p>31. What seems to make me happy?</p> <p>32. How does timing affect living?</p> <p>33. Who in my life do I owe what?</p> <p>34. What should I read and why?</p> <p>35. What role can art play in my life?</p> <p>36. How can I be more aware of my 'self' so that I have an accurate view?</p> <p>37. What lessons can I take from my family as I prepare for 'the real world'?</p> <p>38. Whom do I consider heroic and inspirational & why?</p> <p>39. Where have I succeeded/struggled</p> |
|--|---|

Name: _____

/12

→	→	→	→	Proficiency level	→	→	→	→
Emerging	Developing	Performance Standard Skill	Proficient	Extending				
		<p><i>-use proper conventions:</i> Spelling, grammar, punctuation, formatting etc.</p> <p><i>-Writing techniques:</i> Incorporating style and elements (devices, satire, descriptive techniques)</p> <p><i>-Communicate with purpose:</i> the text tells a story in a personal, creative way; demonstrates critical thinking</p>						

Comments: