

**English 4 Final Exam:** Your final will consist of two skills, thus two parts: Argumentation and Close Reading. In order to prepare, please refer to the following before your exam date.

### **Part one: ARGUMENTATION**

Goals:

- Consider the United States' student dropout rate. After reading the given articles (in links below), create an argument about the student dropout rate and support your argument by citing the given articles as well as finding one article of your own.
- Create an annotated bibliography for each of the articles.
- Use parenthetical citations to show which information in your paper came from other sources. Your argument must have at least five parenthetical citations to receive at least a C.
- Your argument should be at least five-hundred words, not including the bibliography.

Please visit the following pages. Read each article. Remember, to follow links, your mouse must be held down while your cursor is over the link.

1. [http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2014/11/19/u\\_s\\_college\\_dropouts\\_rates\\_explained\\_in\\_4\\_charts.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2014/11/19/u_s_college_dropouts_rates_explained_in_4_charts.html)
2. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/why-students-dont-go-to-college\\_n\\_5901124.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/why-students-dont-go-to-college_n_5901124.html)
3. [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/26/business/economy/dropping-out-of-college-and-paying-the-price.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/26/business/economy/dropping-out-of-college-and-paying-the-price.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)
4. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/27/us-attn-andrea-education-dropouts-idUSBRE82Q0Y120120327>

Your argumentation will be due at the end of class on Wednesday (second hour) or Thursday (sixth hour). You will have time in class to complete this as well as the time during your final exam.

I will not be making comments upon your rough drafts since this is a test to see whether or not you truly understand the argumentation and research documentation process.

### **Part 2: Close Reading and Reading Responses**

Goals:

- Read a short story and by responding in writing to written questions, demonstrate close reading, re-reading, inference, and skimming skills.
- Be able to identify literal vs. figurative (exaggeration, metaphor, simile).
- Be able to identify conflict and how the writer builds upon it to create plot.
- Be able to identify theme and support it with textual evidence:
  - Your story shares parallel themes and ideas with *Brave New World*. You will need to compare the two themes for their similarities and differences.

This story will be given to you to read during the final. It is fairly short in order to give you ample time to complete the short story section of the test.