**Dr. C. Carney  / English 1302  / Midterm Exam**

**Using only the readings from the schedule (in syllabus) for content and examples, select one of the following prompts below to write a well-organized, focused, and thesis-driven essay in response to very specific particulars in the prompt you select.**

**Prompt Options (be sure to indicate your prompt selection at the start of your essay):**

**a) Using 4 essays that are highly controversial and/or pertain to hot-button issues, write a detailed OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS that is full of examples and thoroughly examines BOTH SIDES (or ALL SIDES) of those issues without revealing your subjective opinion on such issues. Remember that the essay must be cohesive; this means that all of the various issues discussed throughout the essay and/or represented among the essays selected need to be focused and unified around some common denominators.**

**b) Using 4 works that you believe to be the most philosophical (deep) among all of the readings assigned to the class thus far for content and examples, write a detailed and focused argument essay that attempts to prove that the subtext of a work (the meaning beneath the surface) is equally important, or even more important, than the obvious content we see at the surface. This essay must be claim-driven, which means that the claim statement controlling the essay answers the vital question: what am I trying to prove?**

**c) Using any combination of 4 works (essays, stories, poems) that are seemingly unrelated on the surface (none of the works can address the same obvious subject matter), write a focused, detailed, well-organized, and persuasive essay that attempts to prove that they are indeed unified. This essay must be claim-driven, which means that your claim statement** This would be a good prompt option in which to develop a DSRP analysis (Distinctions, Systems, Relationships, Perspectives) using Derek Cabrera's unique model for systems thinking he discusses in his video (applying DSRP is not required to fulfill this prompt option).

**Regardless of the prompt you select, the following requirements are expected in all essays:**

**1. The essay needs to be written in correct MLA format (upload your Word document only--no other formats accepted, such as Google Docs or PDF);** NOTE: for the sake of time and because all citations will come from our book, a Works Cited page is NOT REQUIRED (just be sure to cite internal quotes correctly, with authors' names in parenthesis)

**2. Third person voice ONLY (no first or second person)**

**3. 75% to 80% of all words in the essay need to be YOUR WORDS  (i.e. quoted material can only comprise 20% to 25% of all words max!)**