** English 101 Essay 2**

**The Task**

**Write a 3-4 page double-spaced essay that answers this question:**

***Do American citizens have an obligation to be politically active in times of injustice?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| If your answer is yes: | Use quotes and paraphrases from Dr. King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” to support your thesis.  You can also use any other sources you like.  Make sure to cite them on your Works Cited page. |
| If your answer is no: | You may have to find other sources to support your assertions, but you may be able to use some quotes and paraphrases from Dr. King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” if only to disagree with it or respond to it. |
| If you’re not sure and you want to customize the topic a bit, send me a message to get approval.  Don’t wait until the night before it is due…I might be asleep! | For example, we may have classmates from a home country other than the USA. You might want to compare your country’s policy on political activism to the USA’s. That’s fine; you don’t need to ask permission for that.  Or maybe you want to turn the topic into a yes/no answer, like, “In some ways Americans are obligated to confront injustice, and in other ways they aren’t.” That’s fine and you don’t have to check with me first.  Guideline: As long as you are addressing the general topic I am satisfied. The goal is to use Dr. King’s famous essay in some way, in addition to other sources you find. |

***Keep in mind that there is no right answer; you are not being graded on your political stance/ position/ opinion, but whether or not you support your argument.***

SOURCE MATERIAL: Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

* + - Make sure you have read the whole essay "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King

**Guidelines**

1. Make sure that your essay has an introduction, conclusion, and topic sentences for body paragraphs. These concepts are addressed in modules and in *The West Guide.* In this essay, your thesis is your answer to the prompt. Everything else in the essay (your topic sentences, and the examples you choose) should be organized around that.

2. Use examples from the text in the form of paraphrases and quotes from the book to support your assertions. At the end of every sentence in which you use a quote, put a page citation like so (56)--unless, as I told you in class, you already worked the page number into the sentence, or, you are quoting from a source with no page number.

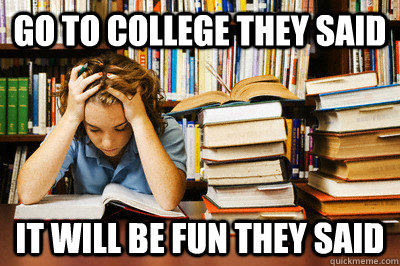
**Works Cited Page**

You may have only one source on your Works Cited page: King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” Still have one; it’s good practice. Many people will have more than just this source.

Helpful *West Guide* Chapters for Writing Essay 2

Ch. 6  Fragments p.121

Ch. 10 Prewriting, Brainstorming, etc. p.183

Ch. 11 Writing the Draft p. 191

* Thesis Statements  p.191
* Topic Sentences      p.197
* Transitions              p.201

Ch. 13 Introductions p.223

Ch. 12 Evidence  p. 207

Ch. 14  Conclusions p.233

Ch. 22 Documenting Your Sources p.385

            Sample Essays, etc.

p. 387-391 in-text citation and attribution (when you attribute a quote to an author)

List of Signal Verbs (said, claimed, argued, etc.) P. 161

Ch. 16 Revising and Polishing p. 251

Rubric for self-grading begins on p. 253