Freshman English—*The Bean Trees* Essay

Your final assessment for this unit is literary analysis essay on *The Bean Trees*. I am asking you to choose a topic, brainstorm ideas, draft a thesis and subtopics, find evidence and generate a final paper.

**Are we writing a full essay?**

No. For this assignment, you will be writing a thesis statement, two body paragraphs and a concluding sentence. This will demonstrate to me your comprehension of creating subtopics, crafting a thesis statement and integrating quotes.

**What’s the prompt?**

We’ve spent a lot of time discussing themes in the text. Choose one of the themes that you wrote about in your final thoughts paragraphs and determine the message that the text sends. In other words, what does the text suggest about\_\_\_\_\_?

**How should I prepare?**

* Review your final thoughts paragraphs—which paragraph is the strongest?
* Use your prep paragraphs to develop working thesis statements.
* Select the one for which you have the best thesis and use that to develop subtopics that address how/why.
* Complete the say, mean, matter chart that we will begin work on in class.

**When will I write the essay?**

You will write the essay in class on Friday, October 18.

**Are there other important due dates for this assignment?**

Yes, please review the due dates below.

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| Important Dates | **Period 5** | **Period 8** |
| Thesis Statement | Monday, October 7 | Tuesday, October 8 |
| Subtopics/topic sentences (by the end of the period) | Tuesday, October 8 | Thursday, October 10 |
| Evidence | Friday, October 11 | Friday, October 11 |
| Mini-essay (writing in class) | Friday, October 18 | Friday, October 18 |

**What can I bring in on the day of the in-class essay?**

You may use the say/mean/matter chart, your book and your notes. It might be helpful to organize these notes/documents before the day of the essay. Please know that I will review your preparation materials during the essay to ensure that you are following the guidelines and you will submit your say/mean/matter chart along with your essay.

**How long should my essay be?**

There is no page requirement. Your essay should include your thesis statement, two body paragraphs and a concluding sentence.