#### **ENGLISH 50 FINAL EXAM**

Things to Know. What to Expect. How to Prepare.

## THINGS TO KNOW

- IN-CLASS ESSAY
- TIMED (2 HOURS)
- HANDWRITTEN
- PROMPT-BASED
- RUBRIC-GRADED
- "BLIND" GRADED

- STUDENTS ARE GIVEN AN ARTICLE TO READ ONE WEEK BEFORE THE FINAL
- INSTRUCTORS ARE **NOT ALLOWED** TO DISCUSS THE ARTICLE WITH STUDENTS
- TUTORS AT THE WRITING CENTER ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS THE ARTICLE
- INSTRUCTORS AND TUTORS ARE **NOT ALLOWED** TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC TOPIC OF THE ARTICLE, EITHER.

#### IN THE WEEK LEADING UP TO THE FINAL:

- STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO WRITE BRIEF NOTES ON THEIR COPY OF THE ARTICLE, BUT...
- STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PRE-WRITE OR OUTLINE ANY PORTIONS OF THEIR ESSAY ON THE ARTICLE.

#### ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL:

• STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR ANNOTATED COPY OF THE ARTICLE, BUT...

• STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING ANY PRE-WRITING NOTES, OUTLINES, OR ANY OTHER ARTICLES.

#### ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL **STUDENTS MAY ALSO BRING:**

- A DICTIONARY, THESAURUS, OR SPELL-CHECKER (good idea!)
- EXTRA PAPER (college-ruled)
- WHITE-OUT (good idea)
- EXTRA PENS (black or blue ink, required)

## PREPARING FOR THE ENGLISH 50 FINAL

TRANS SOLUTION PROVIDENT

What to Expect and How to Prepare

#### What to expect

You have been given an article to read in preparation for your final exam.

The issue addressed in the article should give you a general idea about the TOPIC you will be discussing.

However....

You won't know the specific question (prompt) you will be asked about the topic until the day of the final! WILL YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON THE DAY OF THE ENGLISH 50 FINAL?



#### OR WILL YOU BE LIKE A DRY SPONGE?

NOTHING TO SAY...

## "FILL YOUR MIND LIKE A SPONGE!"

Strategies for Preparing to Write Your English 50 Final: Before, During, and After

### **BEFORE THE FINAL**

- Understand the Reading
- Anticipate the Prompt
- Brainstorm for Ideas
- Talk About the Issue with Friends and Family
- Read About the Issue on the Internet or in the Library

### **DURING THE FINAL**

BUDGET YOUR TIME! You have two hours to write. Use your time wisely!

### USE THE 25/50/25 APPROACH TO TIME MANAGEMENT

(times are approximate)

# 25 % Pre-Writing

#### Spend about 30 minutes:

- Understanding prompt
- Crafting a thesis
- Sketching out a simple outline

# 50 % Writing

- Spend about an hour writing:
  - Follow your own outline
  - Remember principles of good writing!
  - Pause occasionally to re-read
  - Continue writing

# 25 % Reviewing

Spend about 30 minutes making minor improvements to your paper:

- Re-Read your Essay as a Reader.
- Proofread for Grammar and Punctuation Errors
- Edit for Clarity, Conciseness, Style
- Check Your Spelling!
- Make Sure You've Followed Directions!

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#### ONE LAST THING

Don't underestimate the importance of good penmanship!



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Created by Elaine Minamide English 50 Palomar College Summer 2011