Effective Writing Papers - Winter/Spring 2012-13
Papers 5-8 Topics

It is your choice which order you do these papers. Pick 2, Honors must do all 4. You MUST fulfill the general purpose of the paper, plus the required emphasis. And remember, these are NOT, repeat NOT, opinion papers, but must have researched, supported details.

NOTE: I have decided to restrict your topics to these four.
Sorry if I got your hopes up in class for music and culture!

**ART (emphasis on using images and formatting)**
Here are some examples for "art" (but not music, theatre, TV, movies):
- how religion and art have always been connected
- how politics impacts art (the influence of culture or politics on art)
- how an author's faith or worldview impacted/s their art
- how art impacts our culture today
- compare how artists of one period/style impacted authors in other periods/styles
- who are the top three artists of some medium, current or past — *why*
- is comic book art actually art — *why*
- famous artists that no one hears much about — *why*
- famous painting(s) and how they continue to be important — *why*
- art techniques and styles that have become famous and are taught — *why*

**FOOD (emphasis on natural voice, fresh information – ha!)
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Here are some examples for food (recipes may be included separately at end as an appendix, but not within paper):
- the health connections to a specific food item with interesting, little-known facts
- the history of a specific food item with interesting, little-known facts
- the science behind a specific food item with interesting little-known facts
- what you *don't* know about ___ ___ ___ ___ ___?*
- organic versus non-organic, does it matter?
- fats, protein and carbs – what's it all about?
- compare the typical American diet to two other countries’ typical diets — *insights*
- explore another country's special holiday meal and food items — *insights*
- myths and truths about three food items

**RELIGION (emphasis on using effective quotes)**
Here are some examples for religion:
- how religion impacts politics in general
- compare how different religions (e.g. Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism) impacts the culture and daily lives of people
- the difference between religions and cults and why that’s important
- how atheism and humanism are religions and why does that matter
- why the TV media dislikes evangelical Christians
- the role of religion in TV and movies and its impact on the public
- why the conflict between the Shiites and Sunni Muslims in Iraq
- key reasons why the Reformation (from Medieval Catholicism) occurred in the 1400-1500s
- what was the Great Awakening (19th century American revival) and how did it change the country
- what is the famous "separation of church and state" issue and how it affects politics and religion
- what is the "freedom of religion" amendment in the Bill of Rights about and why is it so important today

**PHILOSOPHY (emphasis on simplicity/clarity)
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Here are some examples for philosophy:
- Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle: how are these philosophers similar and dissimilar, and why they are important in the study of philosophy
- define and explain how philosophy, culture and religion are connected and which has the strongest influence on the other two
- who were the top 3 philosophers of 19th and 20th centuries — *why*
- survey “eastern” versus “western” philosophies and explain the differences
- what 3 philosophies most impact our lives today?
- is Descartes’ statement "I think therefore I am" a good basis to start from in defining reality — *why*
- how and why is philosophy such a difficult subject and is the effort worth it
- how and why is the study of logic important to philosophy?