**TIPS FOR ESSAY:**

* **Give yourself 2-3 minutes to brainstorm - it yields better, more thoughtful examples and a more organized essay. (Even though you’ll feel compelled to put pen to paper immediately and race to the finish, take 2 minutes to think!)**
* **Answer the question/task firmly – if it’s a yes/no, take a stance one way or the other. Even if you’re ambivalent about the topic, don’t give a wishy-washy answer in which you seem to contradict yourself.**
* **Use two examples!**
* **Avoid using two personal examples – it doesn’t show a wide enough breadth of knowledge.**
* **Make direct connections to the task especially in your thesis and topic sentences.**
* **When writing about literature, include analysis of literary elements.**
* **Use high-level vocabulary APPROPRIATELY – don’t throw in big words if you don’t “own” them.**
* **Have *A* conclusion – if you are running out of time, at least include a concluding statement as your 4th paragraph.**
* **Proofread your work.**

Question/Task: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literature

History

Current Events

Personal Life

Topic (word or phrase):