McCune

Satire Essay Assignment

The Most Important Invention

For this writing assignment, you are going to create a satirical essay in which you choose a silly invention and make the argument that it is the most important invention ever. Your essay will include an engaging introduction, five reasons why this invention is so important, and a conclusion. Here are the specific requirements:

* 1 ½ to 2 pages
* An introduction that hooks your reader
* Five specific reasons why your invention is so “important”
* A conclusion that emphasizes your point
* Satiric language similar to the ones we have studied in this class

This is a satire! That means that you can be funny, sarcastic, ironic, and definitely not serious. That being said, I still expect that you adhere to standard grammar and spelling conventions and that you keep yourself in check by employing school-appropriate language.

You will also read your writing out loud to the class during finals week as part of your final grade!

**Due Dates:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Date** |
| Exploration of topics | Monday, December 2 |
| Essay drafting | Tuesday, December 3; Thursday December 4; Friday, December 6 |
| Peer Revisions and Workshop | Monday, December 9 |
| Essay Polishing and Presentation Practice | Friday, December 13; Tuesday, December 17 |
| Final draft and presentation to class due | Wednesday, December 18; Friday, December 20 |

Rubric:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Introduction | * Humorous and engaging
* Clearly defines the most important invention
 | * Clearly defines the most important invention
 | * Somewhat confusingly defines the most important invention
 | * Does not define the most important invention
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| Reasons | * Includes five reasons that are thoroughly developed and support the overall claim
 | * Includes five reasons that are well-developed and support the overall claim
 | * Includes five reasons but development is lacking
 | * Includes fewer than five reasons OR it is unclear how these reasons connect to the overall argument
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| Conclusion | * Reinforces why this is the most important invention in an amusing and engaging way
 | * Reinforces why this is the most important invention
 | * Somewhat reinforces why this is the most important invention
 | * Does not reinforce why this is the most important invention
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| Satire | * Makes use of copious elements of satire, including but not limited to sarcasm, irony, pun, understatement, exaggeration, parody, etc.
 | * Makes use of several elements of satire, including but not limited to sarcasm, irony, pun, understatement, exaggeration, parody, etc.
 | * Makes use of elements of satire, but those attempts are not always successful or appropriate
 | * Does not make use of elements of satire, or satire is deemed completely inappropriate for school
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| Grammar and Conventions | * Little to no errors
 | * Few errors that do not impede readability
 | * Several errors that sometimes hinder readability
 | * Copious errors that make the readability impossible
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| Presentation | * Student is dressed formally
* Student delivers an engaging, high energy presentation
* Student makes eye contact with everyone in the room
* Rehearsal is evident
 | * Student is dressed formally
* Student delivers a confident presentation
* Student makes eye contact with most people in the room
* Rehearsal is evident
 | * Student is dressed casually
* Student delivers a flat presentation
* Student makes eye contact with some people in the room
* More rehearsal is needed
 | * Student is dressed formally
* Student delivers an unintelligible presentation
* Student makes no eye contact
* More rehearsal is needed
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