**Writing a Review Essay**

Write a review essay on any subject—a performance, a book, a website, a consumer product, a film, whatever. Just make sure that your review has the following qualities:

* The essay is focused on a specific example of a larger category. (For instance, the film *Maltese Falcon* is an example of forties film noir, *The Curious Writer* is an example of a composition textbook, and Lady Gaga’s song *Born This Way* is an example of politically themed contemporary rock music.
* The writer’s judgments are clearly stated and are supported with reasons and evidence.
* The evaluation seems balanced and fair. The criteria for judging the value of the subject seem sound.
* The essay uses a range of writing styles—narration, description, question to answer, quotations, etc.—to convey the writer’s argument.

You should also pay attention to the following formatting considerations:

* Size 12, Times New Roman font, double spaced
* MLA formatting complete with a works cited page for any sources you have used
* 650 to 1000 words

If you are struggling for topics, consider these questions:

* Is there a movie you watch over and over? Why? What makes you come back again and again?
* Is there a product you absolutely cannot live without?
* Is there a place that holds a special status in your heart?
* Have you ever felt like you’ve wasted your money on a product? What was it?
* Is there a restaurant you just will not eat at? Why not?
* Is there something or someone that just makes you angry?
* What is your #1 college pick? Why?
* Is there a class you would recommend at GJHS? One you wouldn’t? Why?

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