**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

English 10, Quarter 1

Philosophy of Life

Do you spend your quiet time wondering what it’s all about--how do I live a good life? Who am I and who will I become? Will money make me happy?

In this assignment, you are asked to provide your own philosophy of life. *What does this mean?* Well, as a young adult, your eyes are opening to the larger world. Last year in English 9 we asked you to think a lot about current events and to engage with the larger questions of what it means to be human. Now, you are asked to meditate on your own place in this world and wonder about your own code of humanity or your own philosophy of life.

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Inspired? Confused? Lost? Write down your initial thoughts.

Did a classmate say something you found profound? Write it down!

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When you write this assignment, please:

* Begin with an interesting title
* Is there a person (whether famous or close to you) that has inspired your philosophy? Share your story and describe what this person has shown you about the world.
* Is there a song that speaks to you—a speaker who sums it up perfectly? Analyze the lyrics and discuss what it all means to you.
* Is there a film that shows you the way? Discuss it.

Remember: describe how/why you agree with the particular philosophy you’ve described (what in your life has influenced you to feel this way?). You may use the first person in this assignment, but only use “I” and “me” when it is absolutely necessary.

Other notes:

* Include **2 MLA-documented sources** (in parenthetical documentation AND a works cited). If there’s a song you want to discuss, you need to cite it. If there’s a writer you watt to discuss, you have to cite it. If there’s a film to discuss, you have to cite it. If you do an interview with someone, you have to cite it. Get the picture?
  + Where do you find information on citing sources? Noodle tools, of course! Go to the library homepage and remind yourself where you can answer all of your citation questions!
* Is 1 ½ to 2 pages in length in Times New Roman, font size 12 (not longer—remember that longer is not better; practice being concise!)
* Is in the third person, which means that you avoid use of “I,” “me,” “you,” etc. For example, please do not say, “I think that” or “I believe that.” This is your work (so of course it is what you think/believe). Only use the personal pronoun “I” if it is necessary.

**Your work will be scored holistically using this rubric:**

A **D** or an **F** is given if the essay/project:

* Does not present a clear idea / argument
* Is not structured properly / as described in assignment specifications
* Does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment (for example, if a one-page essay is handed in when the assignment requires a two-page essay).

**C**: A C essay/project is an average assignment.

* Fulfills the assignment (genre of writing, length requirement, MLA format, sources and research where appropriate, etc.).
* Presents a basic central idea and provides some evidence to support this idea.
* Has grammatical and syntactical (sentence structure) mistakes, but they do not interfere with communication.

**B**: A B essay/project goes beyond the standards of a C essay/project.

* The evidence used is specific, and it is directly related to the support of the thesis statement.
* The essay goes beyond the basic requirements of the assignment.
* The essay reveals a clear understanding of the importance of diction, logical structure, style, and proper grammar.
* Along with presenting a clear idea, a more challenging or complicated topic may be addressed.

**A**: An A essay/project goes beyond the standards of a B essay/project.

* The idea presented in the thesis statement may go beyond the perspective most readers have; it may even change the way a reader looks at the subject altogether.
* Underlying assumptions, values, and the use of evidence are carefully examined, rather than taken at face value.
* The essay’s structure, diction, choice of evidence, grammar, syntax and spelling are perfect—or quite close to it.