***The Road* Paper**

For your final assignment in ENG 101**, you will show that you understand the complexities of the novel, the larger ideas introduced by the novel, how these larger ideas affect the real world, and how universal truths are found in novels and in the real world.** Ideally, you will emerge from the novel, enter the real world, and then join the real world and the story world together by identifying universal truths. Think of this as a mixture of a literary essay and a research essay. Follow the structure closely – this is also a time for you to practice organization as you balance complex ideas.

**Introduction (1 paragraph):**

Compose an introduction that summarizes the work, touches on the main ideas of your paper, and offers an overall thesis (your overall purpose in this paper is to combine the fiction of the story with real life)

* Summary of work
* Introduction to main ideas
* Overall thesis

**Part 1 (at least 1 paragraph): Investigation**

Using descriptions from the text and outside research into current events, create a hypothesis about what could feasibly have happened to cause the apocalyptic event which serves as the setting in *The Road* (remember, *The Road* is more or less set in present time/the near future)

* Research current fears about earth’s future (based in fact, no conspiracy theories please)
* Collect descriptions/quotes about the setting and the apocalyptic event that caused the earth’s destruction as described in the book
* Using clues from the book (since McCarthy never explicitly states what happened) *and* using your research about true fears, hypothesize about what happened to cause the event described in the book
* Remember, there is no right answer. You will need to convince the audience that your hypothesis is most likely the reason for the apocalyptic event described in *The Road*

**Part 2 (at least 1 paragraph): Solution**

Using outside research, create a solution to help civilization avoid the fate described in Part 1

* Research solutions to help the world (natural and/or man-made disasters)
* Describe solutions in a clear and reasonable way
* Create and describe a realistic plan for implementing these solutions

**Part 3 (at least 1 paragraph): Respond to the Text**

Now that you have used the events in the text to reflect on the actual conditions of the real world, look at the text to find a universal truth. Using quotes from the text, describe how the apocalyptic setting enhances a major theme/universal truth of the book

* Locate a major theme/universal truth
* Explain how this major theme/universal truth arises from the bleak and terrifying setting

**Conclusion (at least 1 paragraph):**

Compose a conclusion that summarizes the points you made in your paper and restates your thesis

**Timeline**

1. Worksheet Due
2. 1st Draft Due
3. Peer Revision
4. 2nd Draft Due
5. Peer Revision
6. Final Draft Due