**Outline for Second Session at Southeast:**

**Choosing a Subject Area**

**REVIEW:**

**Have you got a folder?**

**Have you got your topic list?**

1. **Let’s look at the grading system. (Guide page 4.)**

**Note:** A perfect score is 36 points. You earn points by meeting 11 general criteria. The amount of points you earn causes you to fall into a range for a particular grade**.**

**THE RANGE FOR “E” IS 1-8 POINTS**

Therefore, you must earn at least **9 points to avoid an “E”.**

 **II. Let’s look at the criteria: (Guide page 5-6)**

 In my view, there are basically two kinds of criteria.

 I call them “The Easies” (A, B, C, H, I, and J).

 And “The Beasties” (C, D, E, F, G, and K).

The Easies are earned by following directions. Therefore they are generally the ones that are worth up to 2 points.

Exception: Formal Presentation (I).

The Beasties involve more critical thinking. Therefore they are more complicated.

I suggest that you use this strategy for success:

Make sure you do your very best on the Easies. They represent 12 out of the 36 points and can protect you from getting an “E”.

Then work as hard as you can to get as many points as possible from each of the Beasties. They will help you get a score of “C” or better.

**III. Let’s look again at the subject area’s possibilities and pitfalls so you can pick your best fit. Then you can sign**

 **up.**

1. **Exploring Subject Areas:**
2. **Language Arts**

*Possibilities:* This is the least difficult subject area to choose, because you know it. Consider Barnes and Nobel classic editions.

*Pitfalls:* You must focus on a literary work. (Novel, short story, play, poem)

Avoid using more than one book originally written in a language other than English.

Avoid focusing on the writer’s life,

Avoid choosing a non-fiction book.

1. **Visual Arts:**

*Possibilities:* Choose this if interested in art.

They require you to include material from a history and a socio-cultural prospective. This gives you more leeway regarding an interdisciplinary essay.

*Pitfalls:* Avoid focus on an artist’s life

Avoid focus on general trends in art, or art history.

1. **History:**

 *Possibilitie*s: Lots of interesting topic choices.

*Pitfalls:* Avoid focusing on facts. Selected event must be at least 10 years old.

Avoid focusing on telling a story of an event. Avoid focusing on “What ifs”.

Compare likenesses and differences in sources’ accounts of events,

Sources’ accounts are like novels in literature.

But avoid choosing sources that are not historical. (i.e. historical novels,)

1. **Film Studies**

*Possibilities*: Lots of interesting topic choices.

*Pitfalls*: This is a new area. We have not yet seen a scored essay.

 Avoid a focus on the story of the film. (Too much like literature)

Focus on techniques: Camera shots, types of edit, etc.

 **B. Subject Areas we don’t recommend: (Based on possibility of success)**

Math

Sciences (Biology and Chemistry)

Economics

ITGS

Computer Sciences

Theatre Arts

Psychology

World Religions

**\*ONCE YOU KNOW YOUR SUBJECT AREA—SHOP FOR A TOPIC!**

1. **Selecting a topic:**
2. **Peruse topic list**
3. **Barnes & Nobel classics list for literature**
4. **Peruse past student essays**
5. **Shopping for a topic: (Guide Pgs. 62-64)**
6. **For all areas:**

Check out units and activities you’ve had in class

Check teachers in your subject area for suggestions

Browse shelves and computers in the library or at home

Check out past essays

1. **For literature (Preliminary background info)**

Check out Wikipedia, Spark Notes, etc. or Google

Check out Novels for students (more academic)

Check out print books in the library and books online

Check out databases in Guide Pg. 24

1. **For history (Preliminary background info)**

Think in terms of broad geographic areas or broad time periods. Make a list of those that interest you.

Check out Wikipedia for basic background

Check out databases in Guide Pg. 24

Check out local museums related to topics of interest.

Or “virtual museum tours online”.

**FOR NEXT TIME: CHOOSE A TOPIC**

**(OR SEVERAL THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU)**

**COMING ATTRACTIONS:**

**HOW TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**SETTING UP A TASK TIMELINE**

**TIME LINE FOR COMPLETION OF TASKS FOR YOUR EXTENDED ESSAY**

**LIST TASK: DUEDATE:**

**Choose a subject 2/10-11**

**Choose a topic 2/28-3/1**

**Write a statement of purpose 2/28-3/1**

**Gather preliminary background research 3/3-3/4**

**Determine that a topic is interesting and workable 3/17-3/18**

**Formulate your research question 3/17-3/18**

**Draft a general description of your essay 4/4 - 4/5**

**Generate a list of sources (Primary and secondary) 4/4 - 4/5**

**Create an outline for your central argument 4/4 – 4/5**

**Assemble your proposal 4/4 – 4/5**

**Begin taking notes and collect quotations 6/12**

**Record your thoughts and responses 6/15**

**Check pages 14-16 in Guide for items to include in each section 6/15**

**Draft your introduction 6/21**

**Draft your argument 6/30**

**Draft your conclusion and assemble your bibliography 7/21**

**Check Guide pgs. 5-6 and 27-32 evaluation profile 7/31**

**(To see if you have included all necessary criteria)**

**Make necessary corrections 7/31-8/5**

**Write your abstract 7/31**

**First day of school: Draft due (At least 3000 words) 8/22**

**First draft due to your advisor (Two copies not over 4000 wds.) 8/2**