

George Yazbeck  
Professor Girdharry  
English 3006  
13 April 2014

### **Summary and Pitch (revision)**

**Summary:** Going through the assigned reading, various topics were covered. To start off, the proper writing protocol (including but not limited to: starting a paper as a rough draft, organizing such paper into paragraphs and implementing a thesis) were highlighted as very important aspects of advanced writing. Rough drafts are necessary because they provide a means for one to convey their main ideas in a working manner with room for change and improvement for a subsequent draft. Organization is important because it helps with commanding the flow of a paper from introduction to conclusion and having a thesis statement is essential for giving the reader a foresight into what topic a paper will address. As these pointers help one develop and finish an essay professionally, the book goes on to talk about the first assignment of the course: the proposal essay. To paraphrase, the proposal essay is a work that introduces, defines and sets forth a call to possibly take action to an idea (which could be a new or reformed policy). Furthermore, a proposal essay needs to lay out the background of what subject is to be discussed; what is to be discussed concerns the subject's negatives and affirms any possible solutions via arguments in favor of the writer's stance.

**Paper topic pitch:** As this course requires one to write a 10-page research paper focusing on a controversial topic, obviously excluding certain "extreme" and/or sensitive topic matters, my pick for what I will write about is standardized testing. Standardized testing is a hotly debated topic not only nationwide but also

on some levels, worldwide. I believe that this topic is extensive. There are many arguments and counterarguments that could be made regarding issues such as the negative effect of standardized testing on shaping a curriculum versus the positive effect that standardized testing has on emphasizing what is to be taught and what can be dropped for a certain age group in school. Clearly, this argument-counterargument pairing concerns the exact same issue—one, to be exact, out of many, many more. Furthermore, picking a stance—whether pro or con—really depends on the facts and observations of what standardized testing can accomplish long-term. Some will argue that the tests help determine who is capable of succeeding in a certain college or university based on one's scores with respect to the amount of rigor such educational institution has. Others will argue that the tests do not necessarily test on subjects that a certain college offers or emphasize on (i.e. why would an art major need to test on advanced math or grammar?) In short, standardized testing would be a perfect subject to write a research paper on and the numerous facts and statistics to back up assertions would make for a very persuasive paper given my stance on the matter (con—against).