English 9

Major Project: Write an Allegory

What you’ll be writing about:

* You will be writing an allegory that uses symbolic characters to represent real people / ideas from a real-life news story, something from history, or a controversial issue you have an opinion on.
* Your allegory will be at least 3 pages long, typed, double-spaced 12 pt. Times New Roman font. You will write a 1 pg. explanation after.
* Your allegory should be like *Animal Farm*: each character in your story represents someone real, an organization/big entity (ex. fast food chains), or an important idea.
* Your allegory should be a story—the story should have a clear beginning, a clear middle, and a clear ending. The story only has to be 3 pages long, but I will accept longer if you feel like you’re on a roll or just want more room to explain your ideas.
* 3+ pg. story + 1 pg. explanation + 1 pg. Works Cited = 5 pages minimum

Format / structure:

* We will do the MLA formatting as a class—so you shouldn’t miss pts. here!
* Include the web URLs (for a website) or book titles and authors for ANY and ALL outside research you do to get the info you need for the allegory. Make sure to cite the actual site, not just google.
* The actual allegory can be written however you want, as long as the story is clear and makes sense to readers.
* The story needs to have a clear intro, a clear middle, and a clear conclusion.
* The story should make sense even if the reader doesn’t know what your story is an allegory for, but it should also make even MORE sense once we know what the “hidden message” is.
* After your 3+ page story, you’ll explain your allegory on an extra page.
* For full credit, the explanation must be at least half a page in length.
* In the extra page, explain the actual event you were writing about, what each character/part in the story really meant in terms of the allegory, and why you chose to explain the story through this specific allegory.
* If you represented Henry Ford as a gecko in your story, explain why you chose a gecko. You can go deeper than “because I felt like it” ; )
* The story itself is creative writing: You can get away with breaking a few grammar rules if you have a reason for what you’re doing. The extra page should be in academic, formal writing with correct grammar.

Grading:

* Total: 100 points (10% of semester grade)
  + Story is easy to follow and makes sense on its own: 25 pts
  + Explanation shows that the story works well as an allegory: 25 pts
  + Grammar / spelling (esp. run-ons and fragments) : 20 pts
    - -1 pt. per 2 errors in spelling, grammar, sentence structure
  + Story has clear beginning, middle, and ending: 15 pts
  + Correct MLA citations in works cited page: 10 pts
  + Paper MLA formatting (we do this together) : 5 pts

**Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**