Choose **one** of the following prompts and write a well-developed essay in response. See the back of this document for specific essay requirements.

1. Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures -- national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character’s sense of identity into question. Discuss how a character in *Things Fall Apart* responds to such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character’s response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.
2. In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of a minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Consider how a minor character serves as a foil for the main character in *Things Fall Apart*. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.
3. “And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” --Pauline Hopkins, Contending Forces

Consider how the cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character from *Things Fall Apart*. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

1. It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from *Things Fall Apart*. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character’s values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.
2. Your essay should include the following:

* An engaging introductory paragraph that addresses the question of the prompt.
  + Includes a clear and thoughtful **thesis** that makes an argument in response to the prompt. *A restatement of the prompt does not constitute a thesis.*
* Multiple body paragraphs (3-4) in which you develop the argument of your essay.
  + Each paragraph should include a topic sentence that makes a claim related to your thesis.
  + Each paragraph should include at least two pieces of textual evidence that support your thesis and are thoroughly analyzed.
  + Evidence should be followed by parenthetical references that identify page numbers in MLA format.
* A conclusion paragraph that summarizes key ideas and addresses the “so what” of your essay. How might your analysis be relevant to readers? How do your ideas relate to life beyond the novel?

1. Sequencing of your ideas should be logical and cohesive.
2. When developing your argument, consider subtleties in the text. In other words, dig beneath the surface and don’t just latch on to the most immediate answers to the question of the prompt.
3. Your essay should be typed in MLA format:

* Double-spaced
* Times New Roman 12 point font
* A heading on the left-hand side (do not include this in the header box) with your name, my name, class name, and the date.
* A unique title centered directly above your introductory paragraph
* After the title (in parentheses) include your prompt choice number

1. To submit your essay, you will upload it to turnitin.com. **Type your essay on a Google Doc so that it retains the correct format when you upload it to turnitin.com**