**Persuasive Essay (50 points)**

You have learned about the different appeals (logos, ethos, and pathos) as well as different techniques to achieve the appeals. In addition, we have spent the last several classes working on the different parts needed in a persuasive essay. It is now time for you to write your own persuasive essay.

**Directions:** From the choices below, choose one prompt and write a well thought out persuasive essay. Make sure to have a thesis in your introduction, solid examples in your supporting paragraphs, conclusion, and use at least two of the techniques discussed in class to appeal to ethos, logos, and/or pathos. The essay should be 12 font, New Times Roman or Calibri, and MLA format.

**Rubric:** Content- (5 paragraphs, appeal/s, rhetoric) 25

Intro/Thesis – 10

Spelling grammar – 10

MLA - 5

1. Author Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.” Based on your experiences, do you agree or disagree with Emerson’s statement? Take a position on this issue. Support your response with reasons and specific examples.
2. It has been said, “Failure is not the worst thing in the world. The very worst is not to try.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Take a position on this issue. Use reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.
3. Some schools offer distance learning as an option for students to attend classes from home by way of online or video conferencing. Do you think students would benefit from being able to attend classes from home? Take a position on this issue. Support your response with reasons and examples.
4. To conserve energy and resources, some businesses have adopted a four-day work week, with each day consisting of ten hours. Should your school follow this model by extending the school day two hours? After considering the benefits and disadvantages to a four-day school week, take a position on this issue. Support your response with reasons and examples.
5. Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said that “success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.” Do you agree with Churchill’s statement about the important role that failure plays in the pursuit of success? Take a position on this question. Use reasons and specific examples to support your ideas.
6. Some people believe in praising a student’s work to build self-esteem, even if the work is not the student’s best effort. They believe that students must be self-confident in order to learn. Others believe that praise given for deficient work undermines learning by lowering standards. They believe that the source of true self-esteem is achievement. Does true self-esteem come from praise or does it come from achievement? Take a position on this issue. Use reasons and specific examples to support your ideas.