Final Exam (In-Class Essay: Analysis of a Text)

Our final exam will be very similar to our midterm exam: you will write an analysis about one of our last two texts. In class, on Thursday, December 6, you will create questions about both authors’ use of rhetorical strategies and themes. I will compile all your questions and give you a list of several on Friday, December 7. From those several questions, I will choose one question for “Our Vanishing Night” by Verlyn Klinkenborg and one for “The Ends of the World as We Know Them” by Jared Diamond; you may choose which question to answer.

The purpose of your final is to produce a piece of writing that demonstrates what you have learned and practiced this quarter in English 99/101. Your final exam is **Tuesday, December 11 from 10:30-12:30. Note: This is not a synthesis of both texts; you will write about only one!**

Here are the criteria on which I will be basing your grade (100 points total):

- (15 points) Your essay contains a thesis statement that makes a clear, arguable assertion and responds to the specific question being asked in the exam.

- (30 points) Your essay demonstrates comprehension of and critical thinking about the text. It shows that you’ve learned to analyze a text. It supports and develops the thesis with examples from the text.

- (15 points) Your essay uses quotations effectively (including PIE format, signal phrases, introduced quotes, blended quotes, and page citations).

- (20 points) Your essay is organized well with transitions between paragraphs and ideas.

- (20 points) Your language is clear and uses correct grammar, mechanics, and punctuation.

**Requirements and allowances:** Each student is required to bring his/her own notebook paper, a pen or pencil (and perhaps a back-up pen/pencil), and a copy of *50 Essays* to class on exam day. A dictionary and/or thesaurus is allowed but only paper versions (no electronics) and they must be English-English (not translation). You will not be allowed to bring in any extra notes. There is no talking or use of any electronic devices during the exam. You will have two hours to complete your exam. The exam is worth 100 points.