**English 1T: Midterm Examination**- **Evaluative Response Essay**

**Midterm Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015

**Midterm Time:** 10:05-12:10 (2 hours and 5 minutes)

**Purpose:** Unlike your first timed-write exam, which assessed your learning about paragraph development from last quarter, this exam asks you to demonstrate your knowledge of writing an entire essay. Specifically, you will be assessed on the way you develop a thesis, with supporting paragraphs that are thoughtfully organized and developed (clear points, relevant supporting information/evidence, and analysis). Your response should also demonstrate a solid understanding of the college-level text to which you are responding.

**Essay Background:** In his essay, “Don’t Let Stereotypes Warp Your Judgments,” author Robert L. Heilbroner explores the reasons why we stereotype others as well as the harm this stereotyping causes to both us as individuals and society in general. However, despite these somewhat understandable reasons for stereotyping, Heilbroner argues that we can learn to change the “standardized” pictures in our heads and put an end to stereotyping. Heilbroner argues we can “speed up” what he calls a slow process of change where we “add bits and pieces of reality to the pictures in our heads, until gradually, they take on some of the blurriness of life itself.”

**Focus question**: To what extent do you agree/disagree with Heilbroner’s argument about the possible solutions he says will help us “speed up” the process of unlearning stereotypes?

**Writing Prompt:** Write a 3 page page essay in which you agree, disagree or agree/disagree to an extent that if we follow Heilbroner’s proposed solutions, we can “speed up” the process of unlearning stereotypes. Your essay should include specific REASONS/CLAIMS as that support your thesis and text support from the Heilbroner essay.

**Minimum requirements:**

* A very brief introduction that includes:
  + the definition/problem of stereotyping
  + Introduction to the central text to which you are responding
  + a summary of Heilbroner’s proposal for how we can “speed up” the process of unlearning stereotypes
  + Thesis: an explicitly stated thesis that directly answers the focus question: I suggest using a template from Chapter 4 of TSIS to frame your thesis
* Body paragraphs that begin with a main idea, or POINT: state clear REASONS why you agree/disagree.
  + Use PIE to support your point
* Body paragraphs that include text support:
  + You must use Heilbroner to support your ideas (at least once)
  + You may also use any other texts we have read in English 1ST to help you develop your POINTS.
* A brief conclusion that emphasizes why this is an issue that people feel passionately about **or** that ties this issue in to the larger conversation about equitable education in the United States

**Formatting requirements:**

* Formal heading with your name, date of submission, name of class and instructor
* Title in bold, double-spaced
* Size 12 font, Times New Roman or Arial ONLY

**Materials You Can Use on the Midterm:**

1. Copy of Heilbroner’s “Don’t let Stereotypes Warp Your Judgement” - with all annotations
2. Your They Say I Say book
3. Your Reading Journal #6 Homework assignment
4. Any group notes or class notes you took or that were generated by the whole class
5. Any other readings you choose to integrate into the essay
6. Your outline: must be typed, no more than one full page. You cannot have any “fleshed out” paragraphs on the outline