1. ASSIGNMENT: Write a formal, traditionally-structured essay on one of the following prompts:

$ Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid plot summary.

$ Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures—national, regional, economic, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character’s sense of identity into question. Choose a character from Great Expectations whose character is faced with such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character’s response and explain its relevance to the novel as a whole.

2. SPEAKER: YOU are the speaker.

3. PURPOSE: The purpose of this essay is to analyze Great Expectations through writing, focusing on a particular aspect of the book and how it applies to the work as a whole.

4. AUDIENCE: Your classmates and Mrs. Oppermann—we’ve also read the book, so DO NOT summarize. Instead, provide specific examples to help us understand and become convinced of your ideas.

5. FORMAT: Formal essay: Introduction with thesis statement, body with one idea per paragraph (I would suggest you make at least three points to support your thesis) (around two pages), and a conclusion.

   Please type in 12 pt. font and double-space.
   (Please no title pages, folders or report covers)

6. MOTIVATION: Like all essays, this one is worth BIG points. Grading rubric is listed on the back of this assignment sheet.

7. Due Date Wednesday, Sept. 21 (B) or Thursday, Sept. 22 (A)

   (Please attach to final essay)
GRADING RUBRIC

A. CONTENT /40
1. Addresses entire question in thesis.
2. Addresses entire question in essay: both identification and connection to work as a whole
3. Adheres to subject as defined by the thesis.
4. Uses concrete details and specific examples.
5. Avoids plot summary.
6. Expresses relationships between ideas through commentary.
7. Develops original and insightful ideas.

B. ORGANIZATION /10
1. Interesting title that reflects the thesis
2. Engaging introduction
3. Clear thesis at the end of the introduction
4. Fully developed paragraphs
5. Clear topic sentences
6. Strong, natural transitions
7. Conclusion which synthesizes main ideas of the essay

C. STYLE (Syntax & Diction) /10
1. Variety in sentence length and structure
2. Fluent sentences
3. Complex sentence structure
4. Parallelism
5. Appropriate use of literary terms
6. Extensive vocabulary – right word at the right time
7. Predominantly active verbs
8. Formal diction (no clichés, jargon, slang, “dead” words, 1st/2nd person, reference to the reader, etc.)
9. Economical writing

D. MECHANICS & GRAMMAR /10
1. Spelling
2. Punctuation
3. Subject-verb agreement
4. Pronoun-antecedent agreement
5. Consistent verb tense
6. No fragments/run-ons
7. MLA format (if appropriate)

Total: /70