**English 12ACP – Essay #4:**

***You Don’t Have to Say You Love Me* and *The Things They Carried* Synthesis**

Your Task

Write a 3-5-page analytical essay arguing a thesis about a point of comparison between *You Don’t Have to Say You Love Me* and *The Things They Carried*. You may focus on a theme, stylistic element, or both.

You’ve already reviewed to the Analytical Writing Review Packet for HW—please use this as a reference.

Here is a preliminary list of thematic ideas to get you started

the role of the imagination in telling true stories about ourselves and people close to us

memory

illusion vs. reality

experiences of trauma and grief, and ways to process/recover

the relationship between tangible and intangible burdens/conflicts

what is knowable vs. what is not knowable

family conflict

violence

betrayal

difference

mental illness

psychological defense mechanisms

empathy

what is ethical vs. what is moral

And here are some stylistic elements we’ve discussed—some by name, some by feature

setting—traditional and innovative uses

sentence structure (e.g. anaphora)

story structure (the varying arrangements of its parts) and story length

language type (e.g. concrete vs. abstract, formal vs. colloquial)

juxtaposition

meta-narration/breaking the 4th wall

hyperbole

humor

genre bending

contradiction/paradox

irony

rendering a visceral experience vs. communicating an intellectual understanding

(over for schedule)

The Schedule

In my experience, it takes 12 hours to write a good analytical essay like this one. You’ll have about 4 of those hours in class, and the rest will be HW.

Optional: Spend some time **freewriting** on the elements of the books that most interested you, or the *parts* that most interested you (in order to figure out which elements generated that interest). Remember what Holden Caulfield said.

Work on Mon 10/28 and due Tues 10/29: **Outline** that includes working thesis, 2-4 topic

sentences, and 6-12 quotations each with 1 or 2 bullet notes of analysis

(feel free to complete the above in a different order, and know that some of these elements will probably change before you’re done with your final draft)

Work on Tues 10/29 and due Thurs 10/31: **2-4 Body Paragraphs**, depending on the demands of

your argument and your style of analysis

Work on Thurs 10/31 and due Fri 11/1: **Complete Draft**, with Intro and Conclusion

Work on Fri 11/1 and due Mon 11/4: **Final Draft** (share doc w/Mr. B by 1:31pm)