Name: Date:

***Acceleration* Essay Assignment**

Over the next week, you are going to use your class time to write a **character based essay** on the novel *Acceleration*. You must **attend every class**, and come prepared with your notes in order. If you miss a class or begin to fall behind, you must complete each step for homework before class the next day.

|  |
| --- |
| Your essay thesis is:  **In *Acceleration*, the three most important characters to Duncan are: , , and .** |

As you draw conclusions about each character, focus on the **lessons** they have taught**,** how they have **helped,** or how have they **motivated** Duncan. (Hint: You can fashion these three principles into points for each character).

**Day 1: Introduce Essay & Brainstorm with a Partner**

* Create a mind-map that shows the importance of **four** characters in relation to Duncan
* Come up with **arguments** that demonstrate why that character is important to Duncan
* If you have time at the end of class, begin to find **quotations** from the novel to support your arguments and add them to your mindmap

**Day 2 & 3: Outline Essay & Find Quotations by Yourself**

* You may not move onto this step until your mindmap is DONE
* Using your mindmap, select the **three characters** for which you have the **best arguments**, and begin outlining your essay on the **Essay Outline** sheet
* Fill in your outline in point form
* Create **three distinct arguments** for each of the three characters you’ve chosen
* Find **proof** from the text to support each argument
  + Include the **page number** for your parenthetical reference
  + You will need at least **one direct quotation** in **each body paragraph**
* In the “Comment” section, **explain why** that argument makes this character important to Duncan
* Finally, outline your **introductory** and **concluding** paragraphs

**Day 4 & 5: Type, Edit, & Format your Essay**

* You may not move onto this step, or use a computer until your outline is DONE
* Use your essay outline to **write** your essay
* You must use **formal language**, and write in **complete sentences**
* When you’re finished writing, ensure that you’ve used[**MLA formatting**](http://mrbignell.weebly.com/uploads/5/5/7/8/5578009/mla_formatting.doc). This means:
  + Include a [works cited](http://mrbignell.weebly.com/uploads/5/5/7/8/5578009/works_cited.doc)
  + Include [parenthetical references](http://www.noodletools.com/helpdesk/kb/index.php?action=article&id=53&relid=2) for your proof and quotations. Ie. (McNamee 19)
  + Double-space and use size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font
  + Include your name, course code, teacher’s name, and title at the top of page 1
  + Include your last name and page # in the top right of every page (edit the “header”)
* **Edit** for the **clarity** of your argument, **formality**, **grammar** and **mechanics**, and proper MLA **formatting**
  + You may peer edit if you and a friend finish at the same time

**Submission:**

You must have all of the following elements printed and ready to turn in BEFORE CLASS on the due date.

Include the following with your final submission, and put them in this order:

1. Rubric
2. Essay Good Copy
3. Works Cited
4. Essay Rough Copy (optional)
5. Outline
6. Mind Map / Brainstorm

**Due Date:**

**Evaluation:**

See the *Acceleration* Essay Rubric for evaluation criteria.