Discussion Quiz – *The Freedom Writers Diary*

Here’s how a discussion quiz works: Each class member is required to speak a minimum of twice during the discussion. One of the times you speak, you must ***directly cite the text*** and the other time may be in a generalized response. You have the opportunity of earning up to 5 points for extra discussion points if I feel that your contribution is useful to the discussion. **YOU MAY NOT SPEAK A THIRD TIME UNTIL EVERYONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK AT LEAST ONCE.** You will be docked points for disrupting the discussion or other members during their turn to speak. I will start off the discussion, but once it’s started I will be completely out of discussion. It is up to you all as a class to carry the discussion. **This discussion test is worth 50 points with a possibility of receiving an extra 5 in bonus.**

**Here is a list of topics you should review for your discussion.** You should probably review these questions before the discussion test so that you can have a response ready. Also remember, in the game of debating, playing devil’s advocate is sometimes more fun!

1. How are the lives of the Freedom Writers war-like? How do individual Freedom Writers win particular battles and why? Do any or all of them win the war?
2. What can the Freedom Writers teach us about working with people who are different from ourselves? How do you work with someone who is different from you?
3. The Freedom Writers found parallels between their lives and the literature they read for Gruwell’s class. What effect did finding those parallels have on the Freedom Writers? Are there connections that you made between yourself and an aspect of the text? Why or why not?
4. Do you think writing can lead to change? Can writing really make a difference (for the individual or a larger group)? Why or how?
5. What diary entry stands out in your mind after you completed reading the book? Why?
6. The “Epilogue” includes description of some of the activities of the Freedom Writers after their graduation. Which diary entries made you curious enough to wonder what particular Freedom Writers are doing today?
7. Different types of writing (diary entries, short stories, plays, poems, newspaper headlines, letters, etc) exist in this book. What role do these written texts play for the students? Why? What particular genre of writing appeals to you? Why? Discuss how different types of writing empower or influence people.

Adapted from the resource found at <http://www.iun.edu/~lib/reading/freedomwriters_readingguide.shtml>