**Discussion Test Topics:**

***Night* and *An Ordinary Man***

Here’s how a discussion test works: Each class member is required to speak a minimum of twice during the discussion. Since you no longer have access to your texts, you will not be required to cite the text directly, but on each response you must reference a specific incident or description from either *Night* or *An Ordinary Man* or both. At some point during the period, you must reference each book. In other words, you will not get full credit if you ONLY reference one text. 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 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 conversation. **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. Is the Holocaust overplayed? Meaning, we learn about it every year in class and does this cause us to have “Beating a dead horse” syndrome, thus causing us to be desensitized to this issue.
2. In referencing violence, how do the accounts from Elie Wiesel and Paul Rusesabagina differ? Which is more violent? What is the effect of the description of violence in each text?
3. What techniques does Elie Wiesel use in his writing to get his point across and are they always effective? What does it mean for these strategies to be “effective”? Do these strategies differ from Paul Rusesabagina? Which, in your opinion, is more effective?
4. SS officers: how do they change throughout *Night*? What techniques do they use to enforce their authority and why are the Jews so apt to listen? Along those lines, how do the Hutus change throughout *An Ordinary Man*? What techniques do they use to enforce their authority and what persuaded people to listen as they did?
5. What is the major theme of *Night* and what writing strategies does Wiesel use to develop this theme? What is the major theme of *An Ordinary Man* and what strategies does Rusesabagina use to develop this?
6. The ending of *Night*…why so abrupt? Is it effective? The beginning of “An Ordinary Man”…why so drawn out? Is it effective?
7. As a whole, what is your reaction to the Holocaust first-hand account in relation to the Rwandan first-hand account? Which of the two is the more effective in relaying their stories and making an impact on the reader? Explain how/why.