**Paired Couplet Story Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Your task is to write a story that addresses an ethical issue or dilemma we currently face in society today. It can be a big heavy issue, like abortion, or something more general and widespread, like cheating in school or plagiarism. You will tell this story in paired couplets, as we have seen David Rakoff do in his interpretation of The Metamorphosis, David Sedaris in his radio play Animal Court, and Dr. Seuss in the Lorax (parts of at least).

Your task is to first choose a topic and research that topic. You must find at least three articles that address your selected topic as an issue of ethical concern. Read these three articles and write an abstract of each article (a paragraph or so) that explains the article’s main points. I encourage you to find more than three if you are so inclined, but that is my requirement. While you read, you should be considering the points made. What makes this an ethical issue or dilemma? What, if anything, needs to be addressed?

Next, you will write a story, using paired couplets, which addresses this ethical issue or dilemma. You will need to map our (outline your story) ahead of time so that you know where you are going when you begin to write.

Finally, you will write your paired couplet story (approx. 2 pages in length double spaced).

You will be assessed on the following components:

1. Your participation in the initial brainstorming (5 pts.) – **Thursday, April 11**
2. Your reading of three related articles & written abstracts (10 points) – **Monday, April 15th**
3. Your outlining of your story (5 points) – **Wednesday, April 17th.**
4. Your participation in two critiques (10 points) – **Tuesday, April 23rd & Thursday, April 25th**
5. Your final story (20 points) - **Friday, April 26th**

**Your final story will be graded using the following rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Paired Couplet Style  | The author has carefully crafted a story using paired couplets.  | The author shows a valiant attempt to use paired couplet style, but has a few areas in need of improvement.  | The author shows an attempt to rhyme, but struggles to keep lines / syllable # similar or to follow the two line pattern.  | Minimal effort shown to use paired couplet style.  |
| Ethical Issue / Dilemma  | The author has artfully presented an ethical issues / dilemma for the audience’s consideration.  | The author has presented an ethical issue / dilemma.  | The author’s has made an attempt to address their ethical issue / dilemma, but it is hard to follow the author’s msg. is hard to grasp.  | The author’s ethical issue / dilemma is hard to interpret through the story.  |
| Grammar, spelling, general writing conventions | The author has taken the time to polish the story as to avoid repeated errors.  | The author’s story contains some mistakes, but overall shows good effort.  | The author’s story contains some repeated errors/ needs additional critique or revision.  | The story contains multiple errors and does not show sufficient editing.  |
| Effort / Creative Challenge | The author has taken the time and effort to challenge themselves creatively. This is shown in the word choice and complexity of the author’s writing.  | The author shows an effort to carefully select words and creatively organize the story.  | The author shows some effort to carefully and creatively craft the story, but many of the structures and words are simple.  | The author’s work appears rushed, using simple structures, and words that do not appear to be selected with care.  |