**Christy’a ELA Class**

**What’s My Lens? This I Believe**

**Due By Wednesday, October 15th**

This fall, you have been investigating your lens- now it’s time to consider your beliefs. What do you believe? Why? What experiences and understandings have led you to those beliefs? We are all going to begin the unit together and then you will be working asynchronously (not all at the same place at the same time). In the end, each of you will submit our essays to NPR.org! MOST of the work will be done in school. Your homework is to continue reading and tracking your pages on goodreads.com. I’ll let you know when it’s time for another commentary!

To be successful, you will need to complete the following tasks…this is a suggested order. Your process is YOUR process!

* TASK !: Visit my website This I Believe page for materials (in the 11th grade ELA section)
* TASK 2: Read This I Believe essays (many!) to get a feel for the possibilities
* TASK 3: Review The format of This I Believe
* TASK 4: Complete at least ONE brainstorm from my website
* TASK 5: Write at least ONE draft
* TASK 6: Participate in a peer review session (how to on the website!)
* TASK 7: Practice other revision and editing techinques on my website

**TO PUBLISH: : Complete your final *This I Believe* by October 15th and do these tasks:**

* TASK 8: Share it with me on google docs: ckingham@Me.com
* TASK 9: Staple all brainstorms, drafts, peer revisions and any evidence of your process to a final draft and rubric and hand to me on October 15th
* TASK 10: Put a link to your work on your PORTFOLIO and write a reflection
* TASK 11: Submit your edited draft to NPR.org

HINTS:

1. **It’s all about you** – Write about you and your thoughts. Tell us your story in the first person, and try to avoid sentences like “We feel this way.”

2. **Keep it personal** – Don’t try to use words or phrases you wouldn’t normally say. Remember, if you wouldn’t be comfortable saying the words out loud, it is too formal.

3. **Timing is everything** – Make sure that you read your finished essay out loud. It shouldn’t be more than three minutes long (500 words!) when read at a normal speaking rate.

4. **Say what you** *do* **believe**, not what you *don’t* – Write about what you think, but not at the expense of others. Keep the focus on you, and what you believe, not what you disagree with.

5. **Have fun!** How many times are you allowed to be 100% free with your choice of topic, and what you want to say about it? This is your chance to write about your personal philosophy of life, so don’t be shy—let it out!

*The rubric is on the next page!*

*This I Believe Rubric*

*Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Rubric: NY MS ES

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| **Create:Produce or develop a product for expression.** | |  | Your essay follows the structure of a This I believe essay.   * You clearly state a personal philosophy * Your belief is supported by evidence of your personal story. * You have clearly studied the genre! | In addition to Meeting standards, your essay expresses a philosophy statement that leaves the reader thinking in a new way.   * You clearly utilize the qualities of good writing (i.e figurative language, sensory imagery) craft your essay. |
| **Be Precise: Accurately represents solutions, ideas, and language.** |  | | Any errors in grammar and mechanics do not take away from the reading of your essay.   * You may attempt to use sophisticated vocabulary to express yourself. | You have no noticeable errors in grammar and mechanics   * You appropriately use sophisticated vocabulary to express yourself. * You may attempt to vary your sentence length and structure. * Your writing is concise |

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| **Plan: Make deliberate plans, reflect, and persevere in order to achieve goals.** |  | This I believe packet is handed in on time, you completed all of the publishing tasks.   * provides evidence that you used the writing process to develop and improve your writing, * includes multiple drafts and a peer revision. | In addition to meeting standards:   * you experiment with revision and editing techniques that enhance your this I believe essay. * You include a thorough peer revision and a reflection about your process. |

Be sure to complete a Reflection on your PORTFOLIO! We will discuss this in class and it will be on the portfolio page of my website!