At the end of our semester, I hope you can look back on the variety of works you have produced in our class with pride. Hopefully you have taken a lot of risks with different ideas and techniques and can now reflect on which of those best suit your craft as a creative writer.

For a final cumulative exam, you are asked to compose an expository reflection on your previous works (final drafts of poems, stories, and plays; not process pieces). The format of the “essay” may loosely resemble the typical kinds of papers you have written for literary analysis; a great difference is that you will be citing and analyzing your written work rather than someone else’s. Hopefully this sense of self-reflection will help you to write one of the most effective expository papers of your high school career.

**Major requirements:**
- multi-paragraph composition, effectively organized and with adequate development. Introductions and conclusions might be necessary to create a natural progression of your ideas, but a “five paragraph” outline format is not required.
- 8 to 10 citations from final drafts of major works. You will need to have them with you on the day of the final exam (either graded work I returned to you, or reprinted copies of the work)
- a strong controlling thesis

**Thesis and focus** - Concentrate on answering one or more of the following questions regarding your work:
- Contribution: What does my writing accomplish or contribute to the world?
- Technique and skill: What techniques do I use effectively to carry out my writing’s purpose?
- Identity: What is my identity as a writer?
- Knowledge: What new understandings about the writing process have I gained this semester? (Consider advice for new writers, such as in the works we read by King and Lamott.)

**General Tips:**
- Follow up your citations with deep, profound insights and inferences, not plot explanations.
- Don’t be afraid to articulate the success of your work, even though the focus is on the writing craft itself rather than self-praise; also, I recommend spending a paragraph acknowledging the challenges you face as a writer. Take risks!
- Try to incorporate a likeable, human voice and style, whether it is cynical, clever, witty, light-hearted, or heavy. This is an opportunity to “decomputerize” the voice commonly demonstrated in lit analysis.
- If it helps, try not to think of this as an “essay”, but more as a writer’s guide, a note to your readers, or an author’s explanatory preface to a published compilation of your work.

**Assessment:**
The work will be assessed by the standard district rubric based on the following criteria:
Ideas, Development, Organization, Language, & Conventions