***English IV AP***

**The Human Question**

**Personal Exploration / Research Paper**

**Introduction**

In reflecting upon the vast array of literature investigated thus far in this course, we have considered such thematic issues as coping with the loss of a loved one, choosing between personal desires and societal obligations, discovering oneself through concerted internal examination, and a myriad of other topics. Ultimately, however, there is essentially only one true question…What does it mean to be human? As the culminating challenge of your final English course in high school, you will answer this question.

**Stage 1 – Human Definition**

As Hermann Hesse wrote, “you’ll have to listen within yourself, and you’ll notice that I’m inside you.” And the answer is inside of you…you need only seek it. This research project is a process of consideration from within to without. Before seeking validation in the outside world, you must consider “what it means to be human” from your personal vantage point, removed of outside influences from literature and society. In a 1-page response, thoughtfully consider what it means to be human from your own personal perspective.

**Due Date – Monday, October 31, 2016**

**The Assignment**

In an overall response of 5 typed, double-spaced pages, and based on both personal and research-based evidence, answer this ultimate question…

***What does it mean to be human?***

The creation of your response will take you through several different “stages” of introspection and investigation upon which you will build your overall paper. Both stage and final submissions will adhere to all MLA formatting requirements, including a works cited page for all outside sources referenced within the paper.

**Stage 2 – Literary Connections**

Having now established your personal definition of this question, you will move beyond yourself to seek validation in your response throughout varying facets of literature. Building upon the first stage, in a 2-page response, thoughtfully consider how your personal definition is validated in three (3) literary sources: (1) a work from this course, (2), a selection from your high school tenure, and (3) a piece beyond your studies in school. In-text citations with actual quotations from the chosen works, as well as an MLA works cited page, MUST be included with this submission.

**Due Date – Friday, January 27, 2017**

**Stage 3 – Universal Connections**

Continuing to build beyond yourself and literature, you will now explore the more universal connections your definition shares with the world around you. In a 2-page response, thoughtfully consider how your personal definition and the literary connections connect to the spheres of the social, political, economic, religious, and / or intellectual. Outside research from three (3) periodicals is essential to formulate this aspect of your response. In-text citations with actual quotations from the chosen works, as well as an MLA works cited page, MUST be included with this submission.

**Due Date – Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

**Stage 4 – Final Submission**

After weighing the feedback from your instructor, revise and edit your paper into a final polished response.

**Due Date – Friday, March 24, 2017**

**Stage 5 – Visual Representation and Final Presentation**

In lieu of a final examination at the conclusion of second semester, you will transform your paper into a visual representation. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

**Due Date – Thursday, May 11, 2017 and rolling**

