TEXT: Birkenstein & Graff's *They Say/I Say* ⇱

TASK: Students will read Birkenstein and Graff's informational text *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* and complete the short, written assignment below.

Acclaimed writing instructor, Peter Elbow, introduced the concept of the "believing game" in response to what he called the "doubting game." Often when we read, we read from a critical point of view, conditioned to find fault or defect in arguments we may initially be inclined to disagree with – the "doubting game." Elbow challenges writers to engage in the "believing game" as we read; in other words, read with an open mind to try new ideas on for size. Essentially, the "believing game" encourages reading to understand as opposed to reading to critique.

To get a feel for Peter Elbow's "believing game," try the following task. Think about an idea you are inclined to oppose: cats make better companions than dogs, female athletes should be compensated equally to their male counterparts, it is rude to recline your seat on an airplane, the voting age in the United States should be lowered to 16, etc.

Once you've selected a topic you feel strongly about, write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the position *opposite* your actual stance on the issue. Then write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the position that you actually hold on this topic.

Here is the goal: if you've successfully completed the task, your reader should not be able to tell which position you actually endorse.

Be prepared to share your writing with both your instructor and classmates.

For more information on Elbow's "the believing game" students should carefully consider the ideas and concepts in chapter two of the summer reading text. Student responses should be typed and formatted according to MLA guidelines. Please edit your work using Grammarly before submitting the polished draft to Canvas.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & INTEGRITY STATEMENT: Students are to prepare their own essay based on their understanding of the reading. The use of online resources such as Spark Notes, Shmoop, and any AI tools (like ChatGPT, but not limited to ChatGPT) is completely prohibited. The use of unauthorized online aids will result in a zero on this assignment with no chance to resubmit and a documented academic integrity violation.

DUE DATE: Students taking English 122 in the fall or the spring semester should submit their completed summer reading assignment to the Summer Reading Canvas page no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2** at **11:59 pm.**

POINT VALUE: 30 pts.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Larsen (larsen@sjvhs.com) or Mrs. Gadaleta (gadaleta@sjvhs.com).

Criteria	Ratings					Pts
MLA Format	**7 to >6.3 pts** **Excellent** Perfect or near-perfect MLA Formatting (heading, title, spacing, and in-text citations are all correct or have only minor issues)	**6.3 to >6.02 pts** **Good** Mostly correct MLA formatting. 1-2 minor components of MLA Formatting contain slight errors	**6.02 to >5.32 pts** **Needs Improvement** Some components of MLA Format are incorrect (see comment for specific issues)	**5.32 to >0.0 pts** **Unsatisfactory** The entirety of MLA format required for this assignment is al least slightly incorrect in some way. (see comment for details	**0 pts** **No Marks** incomplete/missing	7 pts
Content	**16 to >14.4 pts** **Excellent** The content of the essay is a direct and effective response to the prompt. The Essay uses textual evidence effectively to prove a point and analyzes the impact of that evidence thoroughly. Everything stated is accurate to the Summer Reading novel	**14.4 to >13.76 pts** **Good** The content of the essay is a good response to the prompt. The essay uses textual evidence appropriately to prove a point but could have done so more effectively or the analysis of the impact of the information is slightly lacking in strength/purpose. Everything stated is accurate to the happenings of the novel	**13.76 to >12.16 pts** **Needs Improvement** The essay attempts to respond to the prompt and use textual evidence to prove a point, but the evidence and analysis are weak/not entirely related to the point/prompt. Some possible misunderstandings may have occurred with the happenings of the novel	**12.16 to >0.0 pts** **Unsatisfactory** The essay does not answer or otherwise address the prompt directly or use textual evidence to prove a point. The evidence and analysis are a mere summary and thus do not effectively prove the author's point. OR some major misunderstandings may have occurred with the happenings of the novel, as the provided evidence is not accurate to the source material at all.	**0 pts** **No Marks** incomplete/missing	16 pts
Mechanics	**7 to >6.3 pts** **Excellent** The essay is written extremely well-- there are no errors in wording, spelling, or grammar.	**6.3 to >6.02 pts** **Good** The essay is written well-- there are limited to no errors in spelling or grammar. However, there is some awkward wording	**6.02 to >5.32 pts** **Needs Improvement** There are some errors in wording, spelling, and/or grammar. The essay could have used more proofreading.	**5.32 to >0.0 pts** **Unsatisfactory** There are multiple errors in wording, spelling, and/or grammar. The Essay does not seem to have been proofread	**0 pts** **No Marks** incomplete/missing	7 pts
					Total Points: 30	