**“Joke Award” Essay / English 1C** 6607 **/ Elwood**

Take a position regarding one or more of the issues involved in Renee Moilanen’s article “Joke Award No Joke to Student.”

Purpose:

Your focus for this paper is largely to determine responsibility for Meagan’s situation. Feel free to spread culpability over more than one party. Address people’s arguments, whether you agree with them or not, and use those arguments to support your view or to demonstrate your different view. Research related topics to enhance your arguments. You may also argue for the way in which this situation was handled. I would like to hear your voice in this paper. You may choose a scolding or sympathetic tone, but please let your feelings be felt in your diction.

Things to consider:

1. To what extent do multiple parties share responsibility?

2. Do you approve of the outcome?

3. Did the teacher do anything wrong? Did she do a good enough job resolving the problem? How does her good teaching with regard to Meagan color your view of this situation? Did school administration handle the situation correctly? Was the teacher discipline appropriate?

4. How do you feel about Meagan’s mom’s behavior and ideas? Did she present good arguments? Was she justified in engaging the media? Should she have transferred her daughter to another school?

5. If you feel that one or more parties handled things inappropriately at any stage of this scenario, what should have been done differently?

ROUGH DRAFT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Your rough draft is due Class 12 (Nov. 12) and should be 1½ to 2 pages long. Bring your works cited page that night as well. You must have a working thesis. That means that your thesis might need some adjustment as you move through your research. Always read extensively what the opposition to your view has to say. Doing so will strengthen your argument as you will know what to argue against. It may also change your opinion to some degree. Do not lock yourself into a view you no longer hold because you do not want to rewrite some of your paper.

2. Begin with your working thesis and then move to writing your body paragraphs. Provide context for your quotes. In other words lead to them with the name of the source. Keep in mind whether or not you are providing a narrative or a dialogue quote. Set it up accordingly. Feel free to create the introduction, conclusion and especially the title last.

3. If you have any questions or would like me to look at a paragraph or so, send me an email. As always, the ECC Writing Center is an excellent place to go for help.

FINAL DRAFT EXPECTATIONS:

1. The final draft will be due Class 13 (Nov. 19). I expect your essay to be three full pages or more long. That does not include your works cited page. Your introduction should begin with an interesting topic but not “Joke Award.” Also, do not begin arguing your points in the introduction. The thesis statement will be the last sentence of your introduction. I expect to see an interesting, million-dollar title. The works cited page will need to be done accurately. Please view my website for instructions and examples.

2. Do not engage is fine-tune editing until you are in the final stages of composing your paper. You will be too reluctant to delete parts of your work that you have spent considerable time perfecting. I expect to hear your voice in this paper. Choose a tone and work it!