**Junior English and US History Combined Final   
Miss Allison Peterson and Miss Natalie Kainz**

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

Please choose one of the following essay questions for the combined US History and English final. You must choose only one question, and answer it in the 5 paragraph essay structure you have been using in class (see last history essay test structure and Peterson’s perfect paragraph structure).

You must use examples from both White Fang and the Westward Expansion unit and primary source packet (see the class website for copies of all the primary sources) in your essay. Remember, depending on which essay question you choose to answer, certain primary sources might be more helpful than others as examples, so be careful when selecting and explaining them.

It is a good idea to start brainstorming and outlining your essay before you actually begin writing it. Use the following rubric to help you structure your outline and paper, and make sure you include all the necessary parts!

**Essay Question Choices:**

1. London uses this tale to describe the setting of the North and to tell about the constant struggle of life for survival, how do the events in White Fang mirror a homesteader’s journey west? Think about the struggles for survival portrayed in the story and the westward expansion primary sources. Be sure to include hardships created by both man and nature in your explanation.
2. White Fang finds happiness in California, the West. How does this relate to the themes we’ve covered in the Westward Expansion unit in US History?
3. How are the lives of the wolves in the packs and White Fang similar to the life of Native Americans in the 1800s? How do the wolves’ lives mirror real human struggles? What might Jack London be trying to portray about human society?
4. White Fang's nature is malleable, and he adjusts to whatever conditions his environment presents in order to survive, similar to the homesteaders you learned about moving westward; is it better to resist or assimilate to the conditions of your environment? Use examples from White Fang and Westward expansion to support your opinion.

**Reminders:**

This essay is **due on Monday, January 23rd**, 2012 at the start of your US History class. You need to turn in a paper copy of the essay in US History because we will be self assessing our essays using the following grading rubric that Miss Allison and Miss Natalie will be using.

If you do not turn in your essay on Monday the 23rd, you will lose points for turning a late assignment. After Wednesday, January 25th, no late essays will be accepted.

Think your own thoughts and do your own work- any hint of plagiarism in these essays will result in an automatic zero.

Keep this rubric, you will need to staple it to the back of your completed essay in order to turn it in.  
 **White Fang/Westward Expansion Essay Grading Rubric**

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| **C:\Users\Natalie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\W9G6EI9V\Logo_01.jpgDescription of Essay Component**  Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Points Possible** | **Points Earned and Comments** |
| **Introduction** -included a thesis statement  -explained the 3 arguments that will be used to support the thesis statement | **12** |  |
| **Body Paragraph 1**  - includes a topic sentence (2 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from White Fang to support argument (8 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from the Westward Expansion unit/sources to support argument, while correctly citing any sources used (8 points)  - includes a concluding sentence (2 points) | **20** |  |
| **Body Paragraph 2**  - includes a topic sentence (2 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from White Fang to support argument (8 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from the Westward Expansion unit/sources to support argument, while correctly citing any sources used (8 points)  - includes a concluding sentence (2 points) | **20** |  |
| **Body Paragraph 3**  - includes a topic sentence (2 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from White Fang to support argument (8 points)  -uses two pieces of explained evidence from the Westward Expansion unit/sources to support argument, while correctly citing any sources used (8 points)  - includes a concluding sentence (2 points) | **20** |  |
| **Conclusion**  -includes a restatement of the thesis statement  -Includes a summary of the 3 arguments used throughout the paper to support it | **12** |  |
| **Grammar and Writing Style**  **-** The paper is clear overall, makes an attempt to persuade and inform the reader, and is grammatically correct. | **16** |  |