ENGL 1101: ESSAY #2 REQUIREMENTS

- Due **Tuesday, October 25** at the beginning of class
- At least **3-4 FULL** pages (does not include works cited page)
- Standard MLA format
- Title, works cited page
- Typed, double-spaced, proper margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman
- Use specific quotations from the text with accompanying analysis
- Standard rules of paragraph construction (i.e. topic sentences, supporting quotations, appropriate transitions)
- Essay should be guided by an argumentative/analytical thesis statement

Choose **ONE** of the following topics:

1. In *The Song Machine: Inside the Hit Factory*, the author compares hook-driven pop songs to junk food in that both have a meticulously crafted “bliss point.” However, he goes on to say that both are ultimately empty calories. **Reflect on this comparison and, using passages from the text, develop a SINGULAR argument concerning the idea of quality in music. Why do we consider some songs “art” and some songs “guilty pleasures”?**

2. In *The Song Machine: Inside the Hit Factory*, the author mentions that numerous modern artists blur the line between pop and R&B. Often, with artists like Sam Smith, Kesha, or Iggy Azalea, that includes white artists adopting a traditionally black sound. **Using evidence from the text, develop a SINGULAR argument addressing this cultural appropriation and how it speaks to and/or affects modern culture.**

3. *The Song Machine: Inside the Hit Factory* contains several chapters that work as their own stand-alone stories. (Examples include the author’s relationship with his son; Louis Pearlman’s shady business practices; American Idol; and K-pop.) **Choose ONE of these chapters and develop a SINGULAR argument addressing how this specific aspect of Seagrove’s narrative speaks about a positive or negative influence of the music industry.**

4. WILD CARD! Don’t like any of these prompts? Make up your own. Just remember you must have a debatable thesis and I must approve your topic in advance. (In other words: No pre-approval, no grade. Proceed at your own risk.)

**Note:** Any secondary sources you incorporate should strengthen YOUR argument. You should not build your essay from your sources – that’s plagiarism. In this fairly short paper, you should incorporate no more than two secondary sources (which should be listed alphabetically on the Works Cited page).

A few reminders:
- You will turn in a hard copy of the essay AND submit it to the CourseDen dropbox for plagiarism detection.
- **DO NOT E-MAIL ESSAYS TO ME. I WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM.**
- If there is an emergency in which an extension is needed, **you must discuss it with me at least 24 hours in advance** (via e-mail or face-to-face meeting) to work out when you will turn it in.
- Essays will be docked a letter grade each day they are late.
- **I WILL NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ACCEPT ESSAYS ANY LATER THAN THREE DAYS AFTER THE ORIGINAL DUE DATE.**