Personal Response Essay for *Sold*, *Tuesdays with Morrie, or The Last Lecture*

Literature 12

Mrs. Budimlija

**Essay Assignment:** After reading *Sold* , *Tuesdays with Morrie*, or *The Last Lecture*, please write a personal response essay using the following template. Your essay should be word processed and each paragraph should have a bare minimum of five sentences. Use AWE for support whenever possible.

**Paragraph 1:**

What did you learn, and how much were your views and opinions challenged or changed by this text, if at all? Did the text communicate with you? Why or why not? Give examples of how your views might have changed or been strengthened. Please do not write, “I agree or disagree with everything the author wrote,” since everybody disagrees and agrees with something, even if it is a tiny point. (If you read *Sold*, you do not have to agree or disagree with anything.) How would you have responded if it were you in this situation?

**Paragraph 2:**

How much does the text agree or clash with your view of the world, and what you consider right and wrong? (Don’t tell me that you disagree with child prostitution. Who wouldn’t?) Use **at least three quotes (AWE) as examples** of how it agrees with and supports what you think about the world, about right and wrong, and about what you think it is to be human. (Put the page # behind the quotes.) How does it address things that are important to your family, your community, your ethnic group, to people of your economic or social class or background, or your faith tradition? Why should we care or not care about the issues in the text?

**Paragraph 3:**

Address the following questions regarding culture which is defined as **shared beliefs and values of a group:** the beliefs, customs, practices, and social behavior of a particular nation or people. What does the author celebrate or criticize in the culture from the text? Consider family traditions, economic and political structures, and religious beliefs. Does the author wish to preserve or reform the culture? What makes you think this?

**Paragraphs 4 and possibly 5:**

What was your overall reaction to the text? Research a topic related to your novel (Lou Gehrig’s, Prostitution in the US and other countries, cancer, etc.). Share five things that you found out about this topic that seem interesting to you. Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why or why not?