English 1A Spring 2017 **Alternative Spring Break Project (Overview)**

**Overview:** Already dreaming of spring break? Well, let’s harness those dreams to some learning goals. This project will invite you to imagine a spring break that would be an adventure, a fun time, and an opportunity to do some good in the world (that last goal being the “alternative” part). What you’ll learn along the way is how to make a multi-modal proposal project that would persuade a diverse array of stakeholders to participate: students, faculty, parents, and community members here, plus perhaps people who could help make your project work in another country or community in the US. This will be a group project (graded individually), so it will also allow you to develop your communication and social skills.

**The Assignments**

1) **Topic proposal**: Individually you will come up with a one idea for an Alternative Spring Break that you would like to go on (brief 1-paragraph description), and you will bring in 2 copies on paper. Identify the **place**, the service/learning **task** the group would perform, and (if appropriate) **the group** you would work with (e.g. Engineers Without Borders, the Nature Conservancey, or a specific Native American Tribe). On the day these are due, we will assemble the groups. Note: if you are absent that day, you probably will NOT get a group you want. Be there! (10 points) **Due: T 3/21**

2) **Progress Report**: This report will be short, just a few paragraphs to tell me how the project is going so far. In person in class, I will ask focused questions for each different group. You can also report any problems or questions that have come up. (This is the only thing graded collectively, but everyone should participate.) (10 points) **Due: T 4/4**

3) **Audience Analysis**: Individually you will write a fairly detailed analysis of the audience you are each addressing in your proposals. (Separate handout to follow.) (10 points) **Due: 4/6**

4) **Conferences:** Groups will meet with me (one group at a time) in my office or in class to discuss proposals and in-class presentations. You’ll submit a written outline of your individual proposals before the conferences. (10 points) **Due:** outlines due **T 4/18** conferences **Th 4/20**

5) **The Proposal Portfolio:** This will be the main assignment: a combination of each individual group member’s proposal to his/her stakeholder (graded individually) presented together in a portfolio, as if it were to be offered to a school’s Alternative Spring Break board, which could approve or deny a proposed project. (Separate assignment sheet to follow.) (300 points) **DUE:** rough draft **T 4/25** final draft **T 5/2**

6) **Multi-modal Presentations:** These will be fairly short presentations, approximately 3-5 minutes for each student in the group. “Multi-modal” means it should include some visual (probably audio/visual) component. Collectively the group will discuss major features of your project, and individually you’ll discuss how you made your pitch to your particular stakeholder—the rhetorical strategies you had in mind. You will also submit (individually) a written version of your individual portion of the presentation, the most important bits, with citations. Basically, this will just be an **outline**, but with sources. (Separate assignment sheet to follow.) (250-500 words) (50 points) **DUE: Th 5/11**