**World Literature: *The Screwtape Letters* Epistolary Project**

In our world of email, tweets, texts, instagrams, snap chats, et.al., the art of letter writing is a lost or dying art, and that is a shame. For the first project in World Literature (remember there will be a project connected with each unit and/or major work we study), I am going to have you utilize the medium of C.S. Lewis’s devilish protagonist.

**Purpose:** The purpose behind this project of having you write letters is to recognize the elements that go into academic writing, but rather than compose a formal essay, you will be working in the letter subgenre of nonfiction, which should make isolating and recognizing these elements more accessible.

**Outcomes:** At the end of this project, you will

1. Know how important PURPOSE & AUDIENCE are to any type of writing
2. Write for a variety of purposes including: personal, persuasive, informative, and situational
3. Address your writing to the needs of specific audiences and understand how audience centered writing/communication is an essential foundation in your progression to higher educational writing projects
4. Grasp the basic elements of the formal (and informal, for that matter) letter

**Assignment:** You will be composing 5 Letters to 5 different audiences and for 5 completely different purposes. EACH letter will be typed, Times New Roman, 12 point font (or equivalent), 1 inch margins on all sides, and **SINGLE** spaced (note that papers are NORMALLY DOUBLE spaced but these letters will be single spaced). Each letter should be contained to a single page (one of the hallmarks of epistolary writing is conciseness).

The 5 Different Letters are

* A Letter to ME
  + This letter should be a letter of introduction of yourself to me
  + Your purpose in this letter should be
    - To allow me to learn all about you
    - To have me remember you
    - To inform me of your experiences, especially with English
    - To make me aware of your strengths/weaknesses, likes/dislikes, etc…
* A Letter to the Editor
  + This letter should be addressed to the Editors of some publication (newspaper or magazine)
  + The letter should discuss an issue and/or article that you read in the publication and that evoked a response within you (obviously enough of a response that you want to write about it)
  + The purpose for this letter should be
    - To offer your two cents on the issue or article in discussion
    - To persuade other readers to accept your viewpoint
    - To garner publication in that periodical!
* An Apology OR Thank You Letter
  + This letter should be addressed to someone whom you feel you need to express your appreciation or your remorse
  + The recipient likely should not see this letter coming
  + Your purpose
    - To make amends or to express gratitude
    - To clearly communicate regarding some obviously emotional situation
    - To be other centered in your writing (thanking someone is putting their actions ahead of anything; apologizing sincerely involves putting another’s feelings before yours and means expressing regret over your own choices…)
* An Advice Letter to Freshmen at LCHS
  + This letter should be addressed to an anonymous 9th Grade Student at this school
  + Your purpose should be
    - To offer supportive advice that will help that 9th grader thrive during high school
    - To help them with insider tips for survival
    - To share school mythology with them and continue the Cougar Tradition in them
    - To reach out and be a mentor and advisor to someone like yourself just a few years ago…
* A Letter to YOUR FUTURE SELF
  + This letter should be addressed to your future self (specifically, you should imagine yourself ONE YEAR from now)
  + One year from now, what is life like? What do you want to tell this future self? What do you want to remind yourself? What vision for your future self do you have that needs to be said?
  + Do you have expectations or goals to share? Will your future self be able to recognize success and/or failure in these goals? How?
  + Your purpose in this letter is to
    - Step outside of yourself and picture your future one year from now
    - Consider expectations and goals that you would hope your Fall 2014 self would have
    - Wax philosophic about your life – give advice to yourself, etc…