English 1A Fall 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* a chance to do some good in the world (that last goal being the “alternative” part).

**Transferable skills:** 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: in this case students, faculty, parents, and community sponsors in the US, plus 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. Of course, it also hones your writing skills and gives you an introduction to college-level research.

**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 10/24**

2) **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: T 10/31**

3) **Working bibliography**: Five good sources for your project, *typed,* cited in MLA format. (separate assignment sheet to follow). **Due: T 11/7**

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: Th 11/9**

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 11/14** final draft **Th 11/16**

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 used. 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: T 12/5**