***Anthem* Essay Contest (100 Points)**

**Select ONE of the following three topics:**

* Equality knows that his invention will benefit mankind greatly. However, this was not his primary motivation in conducting his experiments, and it is not the primary source of the joy and the pride he experiences in his work. What is his primary motivation? Do you think that Equality is right to be motivated in this way? Explain the reasons for your answer. What do you think the world would be like if everyone were motivated in the same way?
* Politically, *Anthem* depicts a completely collectivist society. What ideas do the rulers appeal to in order to justify their collectivist society? What similarities, if any, do you see between these ideas and the ones that you hear around you today? In what way, if any, has your own thinking about such ideas been affected by reading and reflecting upon *Anthem*? Relate your answer to a speech, “The Soul of a Collectivist,” made by a villain in a different Ayn Rand novel, *The Fountainhead*.
* To Prometheus the word “ego” is holy, but today one is usually told that it is wrong to be an egoist. Is Prometheus an egoist? What does this mean? Is it something good or bad? Explain your answer by reference to specific events in *Anthem*, and to a speech, “The Soul of an Individualist,” made by the hero of a different Ayn Rand novel, *The Fountainhead*.

**Criteria**

Essays will be judged on whether the student is able to argue for and justify his or her view—not on whether the Institute agrees with the view the student expresses. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of *Anthem*.

Essay must be no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,200 words in length, double-spaced. Spelling errors and/or written corrections (by anyone) found on the essay will count against the final grade and should be omitted before submission.

* Go to the following link to submit your essay.
* I also would like a hardcopy of this for my own records and reading.
* I will receive an email once you have submitted your essay to the contest; this will be a portion of your grade. So, be sure to click on “Lookup” by typing in our school’s zip code—42503. Then, search for our school and my name. (My teacher ID is 96T417).

<http://essaycontest.aynrandnovels.org/Anthem.aspx>

You must fill out all of the appropriate information. If you’d rather not put your own personal information, you can put the school’s information:

1765 WTLO Road

Somerset, KY 42503

606-678-9000

Email: [first.last@stu.pulaski.kyschools.us](mailto:first.last@stu.pulaski.kyschools.us) or you may use your own personal email address

\*\* Do not put your personal information (name, school, etc.) on the document that you submit to the website. You will fill out that pertinent information prior to submitting.