English 11 – “How to Tell a True War Story” Film Essay

Once you have watched and analyzed all three films, write a formal analytical essay in which you discuss whether or not O’Brien would consider this film (or these films) to be “true war stories.” Broadly, your essay will start by introducing and discussing O’Brien’s criteria, and the body of the essay will consist of an analysis the specific choices made by the filmmaker that allow or prevent him or her from telling a true war story. The essay will be due on Wednesday, January 11.

AP L&C – Analyze all three films in your essay and develop a thesis that makes connections across the three films

Honors – Analyze two films in your essay and develop a thesis that compares or contrasts ideas across the two films

College Prep – focus on just one of the films and develop a thesis that carefully considers the one film

**nuts and bolts**

* Refer to your notes for:
  + ideas
  + details about the films
  + dates and directors for the two films
* This is a formal analytical essay. Do not use any first person language.
* Honors and College Prep students are welcome to write about more than one or two films
* Your carefully edited paper should be between two and four pages long (typed and double-spaced)
* Focus on analysis and not summary. Include brief (one to two sentences) summaries of each film that you will discuss and then figure out which details are essential to supporting your claim and focus on those details.
* Focus on one or two of O’Brien’s criteria for a true war story. It is better to say more about fewer ideas than to write superficially about many ideas.