Honors English 11 – *A Visit from the Goon Squad –* Analytical Essay Name:

What structural devices and narrative techniques does Jennifer Egan use to develop a central idea or ideas in her 2010 novel, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*?

Brainstorming:

What is a (or “the,” if you are feeling confident!) central idea in *A Visit from the Goon Squad*?

What structural devices and narrative techniques does Egan use to develop this idea?

Organization:

introduction: introduce the book and the general structure; end the paragraph with a thesis sentence that answers the essay question.

body paragraphs (two or three): open each body paragraph with a strong topic sentence that makes a claim; use specific evidence from the text to support your claim; in each body paragraph you need to identify a specific structural device or narrative technique and explain how this choice allows Egan to develop the central idea that you identified in your thesis.

conclusion: reflect broadly on the central idea and the stylistic choices that Egan made in this book; do not simply summarize everything that you already said. Try to save something new and interesting for this final paragraph. Why is this idea important or relevant? What has Egan done that is original and effective? Leave your reader with something to think about.

Use your notes and this sheet to brainstorm and think about what you want to explore in this essay. Your broad task for this essay is to think about the structural and narrative techniques that Egan uses to develop an idea, but there are many ways to consider this relationship. Your challenge is to be creative, original, and insightful. Teach us something about this book that we have not already considered. Write a one-page proposal for your paper that includes your thesis, questions or concerns about your thesis, a plan for organizing your essay, and a broad discussion of the evidence that you will use to support your thesis. Make sure to consider whether the thesis is complex enough to drive an interesting paper; your thesis should be an arguable assertion as opposed to a statement of fact. The proposal should not be a mini-draft or an outline. Use this assignment to think through and get used to speaking about these ideas. Use this class period to think about and start writing your proposal, which is due at the start of class on Monday, 12/5