**English 9: *Working* Unit - Interview Assignment**

Studs Terkel interviewed people from various types of jobs in America and wrote a book entitled *Working* that received glowing reviews. The *Saturday Review* considers it “A documentary masterpiece…a formidable achievement because of the close link between work and personal worth in American Society.” This compilation of nonfiction short stories reveals the truth behind the stereotype associated with specific jobs and professions. He explains that in this book “the hard substance of the daily job fuses to the haze of the daydream.” His individual stories based on his interviews serve as a window into the minds of American workers.

Your assignment is to interview someone about his/her job. You will follow these steps:

1. Select a person to interview. You may choose a family member, a friend of the family, or someone who holds a job that interests you.
2. Make an appointment to interview that person. The interview should last between 15-30 minutes. **Date and time of interview due Thursday, October 23**
3. Read/watch sample interviews. Discuss which questions seem to elicit the most interesting responses from the subjects. Discuss open-ended questions.
4. Generate a list of possible questions for your subject. **Due Monday, October 27**
5. Interview your subject. Take notes during the interview. Studs Terkel used a tape recorder during his interviews, enabling him to incorporate many specific details into his stories. You may choose to do this, but it is not required. Make sure you have permission to record your subject.

**Notes are due \_Monday, November 3**

1. Organize your notes. How do you want to begin your interview write up? What will capture your reader’s attention? How do you want to portray your subject? Refer to Terkel’s interviews for basic structure. Begin with a brief background paragraph in italics like he did. Your write up should be at least two pages, typed, and double-spaced.
2. Write the rough draft of your interview. **Due\_Wednesday, November 5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
3. Revise and write the final copy of your interview. **Due\_Wednesday, November 12\_\_.**

This assignment is worth 100 points. Your grade will be based primarily on your final project, but you will earn (or lose) points for completing on time all the steps listed above. In addition, you will receive up to twenty additional points for a presentation that you will make in class. You must bring this sheet to class to be initialed by me on each due date and submit it with the final paper.

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| completed | due date | assignment |
|  | Thursday,October 23 | schedule interview - subject: profession: date and time of interview:  |
|  | Monday, October 27 | List of questions |
|  | Monday, November 3 | Notes |
|  | Wednesday, November 5 | Rough draft |
|  | Monday, November 12 | Final draft / presentations |