

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Always Running Essay

10th Grade Common Core Standards:

Argumentative Writing

- Writing 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Writing 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Writing 5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.



Choose one of the following writing prompts:

1. **Code of the Streets:** How is Elijah Anderson's "The Code of the Streets" connected to Luis Rodriguez's *Always Running*? How is "The Code" a guide to the Rodriguez's choices in East Los Angeles? What are the causes/effects and possible solutions for gang-affiliated youth in Los Angeles? Write a synthesis essay including evidence from both texts.
2. **The Chicano Movement:** What does Luis Rodriguez's memoir *Always Running* reveal about the transformative nature of the Chicano Movement on young Latinos in the 1960s and 1970s? Discuss his memoir, the film *Walkout*, and Rodolfo Corky Gonzales's poem "I am Joaquin," as you explore the impact of the Chicano Movement.
3. **Poetry Connections:** Rodriguez explores the impact the streets have had on his life through his non-fiction, novels, poetry and journalism. Explore the recurring themes of *Always Running* with his poems "Race Politics," "Watts Bleeds," and "Mean Streets." You may choose to include "The Price of Family" and Tupac Shakur's poetry as well.

Writing Criteria:

- Minimum five-paragraph essay (Introduction, Body, Conclusion).
- A clear thesis statement (main argument)
- Textual evidence with analysis (quotes must be cited with page numbers).
- Creativity and sentence variety.
- Checked for spelling/grammar/mechanics
- Typed in MLA Format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Spaced). Un-typed essays will be accepted, but will lose a letter grade. You can also email or share your essay via Google Docs to Nittle at arnittle@gmail.com.

Writing Process:

1. Prewriting/Outline (40 points) Due: _____
2. First Draft (100 points) Due: _____
3. Peer-Editing/Revision (20 points) Due: _____
4. Typed Final Draft (100 points) Due: _____