Aloha Students of Senior English,

If you have looked at our book list for next year, you know we have a terrific group of “classic” novels to explore together. We will also delve into plays and poetry as we examine literature. However, our first assigned book, our summer reading, is a modern classic of science fiction. Over the summer, you need to read Orson Scott Card’s novel entitled *Ender’s Game*. A copy of the novel accompanies this letter. I hope you enjoy this book; it is a great “summer read” for almost anyone. Card’s *Ender’s Game* has been wildly popular for many years and has spawned many other novels. If you get hooked, try *Ender’s Shadow* which parallels this story from another character’s point of view, or try *Speaker for the Dead* which follows several major characters into new settings.

You have two assignments due on the first day of the new school year:

**Assignment #1 =** Mark your book as you read. Look for key developments in (1) the main character of Ender, (2) the theme of “shifting perspectives”, and (3) the plot structure (rising action and developing conflict, climax, and resolution). Highlight, underline and make notes in the margins. Mark any evidence you see of the author’s intent; note motifs; comment on the use of setting; and identify any standard literary devices like symbolism, metaphors, foreshadowing. Your “active reading” marks will be your first grade for the fall term. This in-depth reading will also allow you to be ready to discuss this novel with specific examples at hand.

**Assignment #2 =** In a typed essay explore the theme of “shifting perspectives” within this novel. You’ll find myriad examples, but if you need a jump start, consider the opening of each chapter, or the significance of Ender’s training in the Battle Room, the Giant’s Game, Locke and Hobbes, and/or the Speaker for the Dead in explaining this theme. While this essay is due on the first day of school, you are welcome to send it to me at any time before school starts. Please use MLA format.

Call me with any questions or concerns 345-6443 or email me at home <rdsturges@hawaii.rr.com>. We will submit this essay to “Turnitin” on the first day of school, so please have an electronic version as well as your print copy. Do not plagiarize; cite all sources.

I look forward to working with you, and I anticipate an exciting and stimulating year together! Enjoy your summer and your experience in Ender’s universe.

Aloha,

Ruth Sturges
Grading Guidelines for the “Shifting Perspectives” Essay

Organization:
Standard MLA expository format* with title page:
Introduction with clear thesis — a contention and categories for analysis
Body paragraphs with sufficient & correctly cited evidence
Conclusion — significance of your own argument; synthesis; contextualization
Works Cited page in correct MLA format*

Paragraph structure:
Topic sentence
Quotations incorporated into content & context
MLA (parenthetical) citations*
Commentary & interpretation for each item of evidence
Transitions
(Minimum of three items of evidence per paragraph)

Content:
Thesis — clearly addresses the prompt with an arguable contention & categories for analysis
Evidence appropriate to thesis
Logical development of ideas, interpretation, commentary
Ideas fully explored and balanced

Mechanics:
Correct grammar:
Complete sentences — without fragments, run-ons or garbled meanings
Agreement issues—between subject-verb & between pronoun-antecedent
Verb tense
Punctuation:
Commas
Italics
Quotation marks
MLA in-text citations* — Example: . . . “only today” (Walker 324).
Capitalization
Apostrophes

Style:
Ideas & sentences flow smoothly
Present tense only
Third person only
No contractions
No conversational tone — no slang, idioms, non-standard English
Active verbs only

*Use the Purdue OWL website for help with the MLA format
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/