**Huma 1100—“Freedom, Responsibility, Justice” Name:** Paul English

**News Article Assignment**

Find a current news or magazine article that relates in some way to the readings that we have done for the “Freedom, Responsibility, and Justice” section. Type straight into this form (single space), print it off, and bring it to class. Your answers should be thorough and meet the minimum word requirements. This assignment is worth 8 points.

1. What is the title of the news article and where can I find it?

“Gitmo Is Killing Me” by SAMIR NAJI al HASAN MOQBEL

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/15/opinion/hunger-striking-at-guantanamo-bay.html

1. Which reading in the textbook does it relate to? (Pick only one, and it must be a reading I assigned, but cannot be the “Introduction” reading)

“That Damned Fence”

1. Give a summary of the textbook reading *and* explain what the main argument or point of this reading is. Be specific. (150 words)

The short poem, “That Damned Fence,” shares a first person account of the lawful internment of Japanese American citizens shortly after the Japanese nation attacked Pearl Harbor. The author of the poem describes the environment that they are forced to live in. There are fences, machine gun turrets, and soldiers guarding the location where the interned are forced to live. The author also shares with us the feelings they have being stuck, while continuing to use the same phrase over and over throughout the poem to help emphasize the point that they’re locked up. The author points out how they were a part of the country that has caged them, and that it was all for national defense.

1. Give a summary of the news article. (100-150 words)

A detained individual of Guantanamo Bay shares parts of his story through his attorney, while still locked up. He’s lost weight due to a hunger strike. He’s been there for over 11 years, received no trial and hasn’t been charged with any crime. Before getting stuck there he moved from Yemen to Afghanistan hoping to earn more money, but instead getting stuck without a job or income. After America invaded in 2001, he sought to flee to Pakistan but was arrested there when he asked to see someone from his home embassy, and was eventually sent to Guantanamo Bay. He’s being painfully force fed along with many others who are also on hunger strikes.

1. Describe how the news article and the textbook reading (the one you listed in question #2) are related. Make specific references to the textbook reading. (200-250 words)

The textbook reading is short, but describes the situation of a group of people being detained in a concentration camp for Japanese American citizens. The article is similar in respect to the detainment of people in a tortuous situation, though it’s of citizens of other governments and part of a different kind of war. The people (or person) in both situations seem to be very run down and depressed due to their unique situation, and it’s tragic to understand that as Americans we still treat people like this. We don’t really know the situation of the detainee in Guantanamo since we don’t have the full story. We have a lawyer sanitized version that may or may not leave out the further details of why this person, or others like him were suspicious and ultimately ended up as a prisoner, but from the perspective given it feels a lot like the unneeded detention of the Japanese in our borders like in the poem. Unlike the Japanese concentration camps Guantanamo Bay is a solitary instance, whereas the concentration camps were a nation wide occurrence.

1. What are your thoughts on this article and the ideas and/or issues it raises? (150 words)

It’s kind of difficult to read something like this without empathizing for the person who is trapped. Even worse is to realize that they’re trapped because of actions people of our country took, and that changes we’ve made to our government haven’t had an affect in stopping the inhumane things that seem to be going on over there. It’s wrong that these people have had no trial, and no charges placed against them. What reasons do we really have to keep them there? What are we doing to them that has caused them to lose all hope and simply stop eating? It’s almost like giving up on life, the only form of protest they can really perform in their situation, and because of it they are painfully fed with tubes being held down by teams of people who’s job it is to keep these people alive by any means necessary. What rights do we have to do this, and why has it been going on so long?

1. Come up with two questions on the news article and the textbook reading that you think are important to ask. (One question for each, but do not answer them.)

News article question:

Textbook reading question:

Why do we let bad things like this recur given our historical understanding of similar events?

What kind of actions can we take to actively protest what is going on?