Midterm Season

The last thing I wanted this morning was to wake up

As I hear the sound of my roommate pounding on my door,

I get up.

And lightly slap his cheek

My voice rumbles, “Leave me the hell alone man”

He defends himself, “But you told me to wake you up for your midterm”

“Oh shit. You right. My bad dude,” I say as I softly pat him on the cheek

I feel a stinging pain in my bones,

Every student knows this feeling,

Every student.

Midterms

As I stand embracing the warmth flowing from my shower, I close my eyes

Just one more second of sleep

Just one more sec-

“I’M UP” I yell,

As the water flows down my nose

As I make my way through the brisk California morning,

I arrive at my class

All I hear is the sound of trees swaying in the wind

Birds singing the warm sun to light

No, no, no. That’s not right

All I heard was the silent prayers of my peers

Sadness blankets the earth,

But this blanket. It is not warm.

What could make such a beautiful day,

Feel so ugly?

As I watched the sun slowly rise

I physically cringed at the passing of each second

My body yearned to bundle up in that rock hard dorm bed

Sleep was a concept long forgotten

The sun reminded me of that

So much pain for such an innocent student

Why do I do this to myself?

I seek the sweet release of a good nap

Yet here I am, outside class

Pencil in hand

The clock strikes eight

The doors woosh open

Like cattle heading to slaughter we enter the room

The professor grins, like the Grinch before he stole my soul

As he hands out our death sentences, I take one and pass it on

How many trees died to print this 19 page final?

“Five minutes left” he announces

Sweat begins pouring down my forehead.

I can barely hold my pencil.

I can barely hold myself together.

I can barely breathe.

I take one deep breath, wiping away a single tear

And as I stand up, my legs turn to jelly

I fall.

The world goes dark.

I hear a voice in the background,

It screams a muffled plea “Wake up! Wake up! You’re late for your test!”

My eyes open wide as child on Christmas morning

I overslept,

It was worth it