**Ellis Island Interpretive Essay**

The purpose of an interpretive essay is to explain your understanding of a given idea, topic, concept, problem, or situation. Your explanation is developed and supported with reference to specific evidence.

Drawing of your interpretation of the History Channel’s Ellis Island video, you will write an essay that focuses on the following:

* Select **one question from section A and one question from Section B**.
  + Section A: The following quotes were reinforced by a number of photographs on several occasions. Comment on one of the following:
    - “We were like human cattle.”
    - “We were always standing in line.”
    - Images of branding people (colored chalking, tags, etc.)
  + Section B:
    - Was Ellis Island a prison or palace? Please support your position with data, examples, etc.
    - “The intent was to accept, not reject people.” In what way(s) was the process geared for achieving this goal? In what way(s) was it not?
    - What assumptions were made about immigrants? (Consider class, race, gender, age, etc.)
* Based on your reflections on the Ellis Island video, develop an interpretive essay on each of your choices.

Requirements for your essay are as follows:

* Your essay need to include a title, introduction, body, and conclusion
* Contains at least 1 supporting fact per section
* MLA Format
* Typed, double space, 1 in margins
* 12 point Times New Roman Font

Deadline:

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| What? | Due Date/Time |
| Ellis Island Essay  (35 points-graded via rubric) | **Thursday 03/19/15 via e-mail or Google Docs by 11:59pm!** |

Tips for Success:

* Make sure you take notes during the video
* Make sure you understand MLA Format
* Come in for help during office hours or make an appointment
* Use time productively