**(Revised “B”) Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Final Copy (Top) / Rubric (middle) / First Draft (bottom)

**“This I Believe” Essay Specifications and Rubric**

* Major Grade
* Typed / MLA header and format / 450-600 words (Approximately ¾ - 1.0 page)
* Write in your own words. / Speak in the first person / **Start paper with an “I believe” statement**
* Tell not only what you believe, but how you reached your beliefs, and if they have grown, what made them grow.
* Confine yourself to affirmatives (I believe, not I don’t believe). Be positive and avoid preaching.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of voice covered in this unit (detail, diction, syntax, tone, additional writing conventions, ethos, pathos, logos)
* Demonstrate a command of sentence variety

***Content***:

**Note**: Start the paper with an “I believe” statement about one specific thoughtful topic.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The writer’s voice is clearly evident and personal. It goes beyond the superficial clichéd examples that are general and vague to make it personally specific, real, thoughtful, passionate, and thought-provoking. *(Task and Audience: W.9-10.4)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The writing is positive and avoids cliches, dogma, and preaching and instead uses examples and sincere thoughtfulness to convey points.

(First person & Uses only affirmatives). *(Task and Audience: W.9-10.4 -specific to this task)*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Examples and anecdotes show that the interest is passionate, real, and undoubtedly personally applied and sincere rather than superficial and general. Clearly develops their belief for the reader /Strongly establishes their narrative voice / Creates a smooth progression of sincere experiences and ideas. *(Writing Narratives: W.9-10.3 A)*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Writing explains how writer’s personal experiences helped shape and create this

belief. The writing explains **how the writer reached his or her beliefs** by giving **specific anecdotes and examples. The writing also provides anecdotes and examples showing how the writer has applied his or her belief system through personal actions**. Writing effectively develops belief and experiences by using all of the following: descriptions (details) / reflections / tone. *(Writing Narratives: W.9-10.3))*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Conveys a vivid picture of experiences by using all of the following:

-precise word choice (diction) **/ specific details about how the writer has applied**

**this belief through actions** / sensory language *(Writing Narratives: W.9-10.3)*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Provides a conclusion that clearly reflects on and is drawn from what is

experienced; conclusion directly ties back to belief. *(Writing Narratives: W.9-10.3 E)*

***Specific Grammar***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Uses a variety of sentence types. *(L.9-10.1 A and 10.1 B)*

***Planning***: *(Writing and Revising W.9-10.5)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Completes all of the following steps: planning, revising, editing, rewriting