**English I - Summer 2015  
This I Believe Essay and Presentations**  
  
In the 1950s, National Public Radio (NPR) in the United States began the “This I Believe” project, which invited listeners to write down and speak their personal beliefs on air. Your final essay assignment for English I is to write about one of your beliefs in a short narrative (story) essay format.   
  
**Essay – 10 points**  
300-600 words (about 3 minutes reading out loud)  
Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 2.54 cm margins

**Presentation – 5 points**3-4 minute presentation of your essay which will be video-recorded

Rough draft due (hard copy due in class): **April 8, 2015**  
Peer edit: **April 8, 2015  
Final essay due:** (typed, emailed by 17h, and hard copy in class): **April 15, 2015**  
**In-class presentations:** **April 22 and April 29, 2015**

**Tell a story:**  Be specific. Write about a belief (or principle) that you are passionate about. Using an event or experience from your own life write about why you are passionate about this principle. You are also welcome to use religious texts if you like but the bulk of your essay should be a personal story.

Think of your own experience, work, and family and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching – it can even be funny – but it should be real. The story you tell should illustrate how you have lived your belief. Do not write about what you do on a daily basis, rather tell a specific story.

**Name your belief:** Make sure you pick ONE core belief. You can write about hard-work, charity, prayer, empathy, learning… (if you believe in many things, select one to write about).

**Be personal:** This is a personal essay, different from an argumentative essay. It is OK to use words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak.

**Be positive:** Please avoid preaching. Tell what you do believe, not what you don’t believe. Make your essay *about you*; speak in the first person.

*Assignment adapted from SOTA Humanities: World Civilizations “This I Believe” Assignment and Rubric and the original 1954 “This I Believe” series.*