**Merritt English 201 AB Spring 2015**

**In-Class Timed Final Essay**

Here in the computer lab, you have one hour and thirty minutes to respond to the following writing prompt during which time you will write a thesis driven response, using supporting examples and details. No outside sources are to be used.

**Writing Prompt:**

Some people believe that politicians or celebrities have a right to keep their personal lives private, while other people believe that the public has a right to know about the private lives of these people.

Should the media cover the private lives of public people?

Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

Your task is to create a Word document for your essay, write your response, and then save it to the desktop so you can submit it to the Final Essay Assignment in the last week of the Moodle course. Make sure to delete it from the desktop when you have successfully submitted the essay.

First off, you are encouraged to spend a few minutes freewriting and collecting your ideas, allowing you to generate thoughts about the topic, and then organizing those ideas into an essay structure:

* An introduction that engages the reader
* A clear, strong thesis statement *– should they or shouldn’t they*?
* Body paragraphs with appropriate topic sentences that determine the content of the paragraph.
* PIE paragraphs with appropriate illustrations and examples, using your own life experience as support for your claims in the topic sentence.
* Transitions both within the paragraphs and at the end of paragraphs to lead to the next topic sentence idea.
* A concluding paragraph that wraps up the essay while revisiting the thesis statement.

Finally, make sure to save ten or fifteen minutes at the end to PROOFREAD your essay carefully, referencing your own grammatical issues and identifying any sentence level errors you might have.