**Happy Friday!** I will see you Tuesday.

Please be sure you have *The Great Gatsby* with you in class.

Enjoy the long weekend, and happy MLK Day.

Today, I would like you to create a final draft of the essay you started on Monday. Please use the entire period for a substantial revision of your essay/chapter. Here are my thoughts after looking through a large chunk of them. By the end of today’s revision, the answer to each of these questions should be a confident “yes.”

+ Does your essay have a single, specific focus. Make it a cohesive chapter by focusing it around a specific subject, time in your life, or theme in your life. If your chapter covers your entire high school experience, it is probably too broad! How can you tighten it?

+ Is your essay developed into multiple paragraphs? If you’ve written a single, stream-of-conscious paragraph, it begins to become a blur of words. This essay/chapter should be clearly organized, and breaking it into paragraphs will help create that organization, and a flow for your reader. An effective essay of this size should be around 3-5 paragraphs.

+ Does it have a beginning, a middle, and an end? Be sure you have done your best with the storytelling aspects of the assignment. Take it somewhere, and tie it all together. Again, this is only possible if you have a clear focus and a clear organization.

+ Is it as error free as it can possibly be? Once again, proofread for run-ons, grammar, etc. You may want to revisit the run-on / comma splice handouts from last semester as you edit.

Please note that **revising** is more than just proofreading. To rethink your focus and your structure and your storytelling style often (usually) requires us to scrap some of what we’ve done (sometimes a lot of it) and build something new around just the *best* parts of the first draft. You have the entire period to do some substantial revision—my expectation is that your final essay will meet all the suggestions outlined in the bullets above. Please do your best to finish in class today; if you still need more time, you can share the final version anytime before class begins Tuesday.

Here’s the topic again, if you were absent:

*Imagine that you have written a 15-chapter autobiography of your life, up to this point. What would Chapter 10 say? Please share that chapter. It should be 450-600words and should be written in first person.*

*This is due at the end of class. Please share it with me as a Google doc. Please title the doc Chapter 10 so it's easy for me to find. In the document itself you are welcome to give it a more specific title.*