***The Importance of Being Earnest* Summative Assessment (100 points)**

After having completed the **aphorism activity** individually, you have an idea of the many social mores that Wilde lampoons in his play. You should group these aphorisms into topics: marriage, romance, social class, or gender roles. Select *one* topic that you would like to address in the thesis statement for your summative assessment. Since we will be unable to discuss the aphorism assignment as a whole group, you ***MUST*** peruse ALL of the listed aphorisms to collect enough items to use in your summative assessment.

**The Summative Assessment for *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1898) by Oscar Wilde**

***1993.****“The true test of comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter.” Choose a novel, play, or long poem in which scenes or characters awaken “thoughtful laughter” in the reader. Write an essay in which you show why this laughter is “thoughtful” and how it contributes to the meaning of the work.*

To respond adequately to this essay prompt, you will need to perform some independent research on satire and its use in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (IOBE). Read what you can about the topic, look for comparisons to other books, plays, film, and explore satire and its use to illuminate and pillory societal ills.

**Please note: *The Importance of Being Earnest* is in the public realm of literature. You can find many free copies of the play online.**

For your essay on IOBE, you will:

* Create your **own** definition of “satire” ***as it is used*** in IOBE,
* Use your text copy of IOBE and the aphorism activity to find, cite, and analyze moments of “thoughtful laughter” occurring in IOBE,
* And, finally, evaluate Wilde’s success in using satire to **address a societal element**.

Requirements:

* MLA format
* 600-800 words (please add word count to end of paper)
* Thoughtfully composed thesis addressing the 1993 prompt
* Carefully selected and analyzed evidence from the play’s script
* Uploaded to Turnitin.com by Friday Night at 11:59pm on March 20th

**Please remember that you will also be reading *Pride and Prejudice* as you complete the IOBE Summative Assessment. Do keep up with the P&P reading schedule as it is posted on our website.**