Essay Questions for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

**Essay Instructions:** Choose one of the following questions and write a 500 word essay in response. Develop a point of view on the issue presented in the question and support your point of view using reasoning and examples from your reading, experience, and/or observations. Use one-inch margins, 12-point font, and double space your essay. Use MLA format for citing quotations. [See http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/ for the MLA style guide.]

Essays are due to your First Year Seminar instructor on the first day of class.

1. In Alexie’s book, Junior was certainly not the only person on his reservation to feel trapped, helpless, and hopeless. Why, when others on his reservation have given up, was Junior a survivor? What made him different from the others? Support your argument using specific examples from the novel, and cite them using MLA citation format.

2. Consider the title of the book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and write an essay in which you examine Junior’s struggle for identity. In what ways does his identity change once he attends the white high school, and are there any ways that he remains the same person? How important is his sense of identity? Support your argument using specific examples from the novel, and cite them using MLA citation format.

3. Although *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* has been classified as a Young Adult novel, it has been banned in multiple school districts across the country. Write an argument in which you make a case for or against banning this book in middle schools or high-schools. Support your argument using specific examples from the novel, and cite them using MLA citation format.