**Composition Assignment Sheet**

***Snow Falling on Cedars***

**Directions: Choose one of the options below and develop a composition (word processed, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font) of 3 pages in length (+/-). DUE ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 30. The grading criteria will be as follows:**

**30% Content – Do you thoroughly cover the topic? Do you avoid repetitive content? Do you follow the assignment accurately?**

**30% Mechanics – Are your sentences and paragraphs sound? Do you use punctuation correctly? Do you vary sentence structures.**

**40% “Artfulness” – Do you use a structure and style that are engaging to the reader? Is your composition original as opposed to “derived” from something you may have read on the internet? Is there a beginning, a middle and an end to your composition that goes beyond a formulaic pattern?**

1. Read about Japanese internment camps in the United States during World War II. Write a one-week diary from the point of view of a teenager whose family is interned in one of these camps. As you write from this perspective, keep in mind such factors as the life you left behind, how other members of your family are affected, and how this experience may affect your future.
2. Guterson uses highly descriptive imagery in portraying the settings of *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Choose three locations that are familiar to you and write about them, using sensory details (sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings) to give a reader a true sense of each place. Utilize a structure (such as a storyline) to give your composition shape.
3. Not surprisingly, some Japanese Americans sought to right the injustices of their internment through the court system. The first case to reach the Supreme Court was as early as 1943 when Gordon Hirabayashi, a student at the University of Washington, disobeyed the curfew and refused to report for evacuation. Study this case and see if you are surprised by the Court's decision. Then pretend you are a member of the Court during this case and write an opinion (an official Court statement explaining a decision) in which you explain why you voted the way you did.
4. One of the novel's themes is that of interracial love. This is a theme that has been explored throughout America's history in a variety of media. Look for examples of this theme in film, literature, art, and drama. Try to find examples that portray different types of interracial romance, not only African American and Caucasian. Based on what you learn, write your composition on cultural history in the United States. Why is this theme important in American history, and what do you see as the future of this source of controversy?