**Beowulf Prompts**

1/ Trace the significant differences among Beowulf's 3 epic deeds, stopping to comment and apply significance as you do so. Then, step back and try to notice the overall significance these differences lead you to. Evaluate the nature of the foe but also of Beowulf in each case. Evaluate the terms of the fight in each case. Do you consider this epic hero a static or dynamic character and if so why?  
2/ Evaluate the character of Wiglaf, who shows up really at the last minute in this poem. Does he only have a limited function in the last episode or can you claim more for this character? How so?  
3/ Assess the heroic endeavor in this epic.  
4/ In the light of 9/11 and its aftermath, what relevance does this epic have?  
5/ Perform a close-reading of a short excerpt (10-20 lines) from the poem (a section we have not already read in class).  
6/ Beowulf is the story of a dual ordeal: an external battle with vicious opponents and an internal battle with human tendencies of pride, greed, cowardice, betrayal, and self-concern.  
7/ Beowulf is the universal story of man's journey from adolescence to adulthood to old age and the growth in wisdom about self and the world gained through the pain and triumph of experience.

8/ With the film produced by Sebastian Faulks in mind, discuss how Grendel in *Beowulf* enters into the history of the nature of the antihero in British literature. Pick up some of the themes discussed. What makes him compelling? Is he more compelling than the hero? How like/unlike us is he? Would *Beowulf* be such a long-lasting epic poem without Grendel?  
**N.B. Use your intellect, imagination, and the text to guide and develop your thoughts**.  
**Directions:**- **Outline**your paper before you turn it in; staple your outline to the back of your essay, or receive **a ten-point deduction.**- As a formal paper assignment, your paper should refrain from using informal language, first person pronouns...  
- Write a 4-5 page essay (**at least 5 paragraphs**) on one of the above prompts.  
- Your paper must adhere to MLA format and include a Works Cited page.  
- Your paper must be turned in **both at turnitin.com and as a hard copy to me** to be considered "on time".  **Hand in hard copy no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, September 24th. Submit paper to turnitin.com no later than 10:30 p.m. or receive a ten-point deduction per day late .**