***Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: The Pardoner's Tale***

***1/***'Death' is the true catalyst of the story. Explain.  
  
2/ Preaching and Avarice in the Pardoner's Tale. Discuss these themes.  
  
3/ Who is the old man in the story, and what role does he play?  
  
4/ The Pardoner deceives his audience but at the same time also deceives himself. Discuss.  
  
5/ The overall tone in the *Pardoner's Tale* is ironic. Discuss how Chaucer the narrator manages this.

***Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: The Pardoner's Tale,******The Knight’s Tale* or *The Pardoner’s Tale***

6/ Choose a short passage (approx. 12 lines) from any of the tales above that allows you to investigate the literary aspects closely. Look at the excerpt's genre, diction, syntax, figurative language, comic devices and rhyming scheme. What is the overall tone?

7/ In *The General Prologue* Chaucer puts himself in the story as one of the pilgrims, who journeys to Canterbury to the tomb of Saint Thomas à Becket. This creates the effect of two narrators, one, the pilgrim narrator and the other, the poet narrator. Explain your viewpoint on the effectiveness of this double-narrator, and **what exactly** Chaucer achieves by doing this. Illustrate with examples from any three characterizations of the pilgrims.

8/ Chaucer is reputed to have brought the Renaissance to England, as he was influenced by both French and Italian literary trends. However unlike such work as Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, the *Canterbury Tales* do not end with spiritual purification. In fact he highlights the weakness of human nature, women's mastery over men and the corruption of the church. It is writing such as this that has tagged him as a humanist. Discuss the relevance of this observation, and why you think that Chaucer as such still has value today. Choose any or all of the tales above to illustrate your viewpoint.

**Directions:**-  
- As a formal paper assignment, your paper should refrain from using informal language, first person pronouns...  
- Write a 3-4 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.

- Attach the Cover page with honor pledge and an outline to your essay.