Chuck Palahniuk’s *Fight Club*, which is a story of one man’s search for meaning in life, echoes many of the ideas in Eckhart Tolle’s *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose*; however, in some ways, *Fight Club* dramatizes an approach toward life that couldn’t be further from the inner peace Tolle tries to promote.

**Essay Assignment**—Write a clear, assertive (thesis-driven), organized, and well-supported argument in response to this prompt: how does the narrator’s life in *Fight Club* seem similar to—yet different from—the life that Tolle suggests?

**Sources:** You can include outside research (though it’s not at all necessary), but you must focus on both these sources: Eckhart Tolle’s *A New Earth* and Chuck Palahniuk’s *Fight Club*.

**Tips:** A challenge of this assignment includes organizing key claims in unified (focused) and well-developed paragraphs. This means it’s important not to just list various similarities but to select a few interesting ones that you can focus on and expound upon as you clarify distinctions in the texts (explaining ideas and backing up ideas with specific examples and quotes as evidence). Thus, as you point out basic similarities, you will also be making an argument about what distinguishes the texts from one another.

**General Objectives:** Strive to think critically about our class materials and to communicate your insights in an effective and credible manner. Your basic goals are these:

- Make a clear argument. Signal your key points clearly by making your thesis statement (an arguable claim in your introduction) and topic sentence claims easy to find.
- Make an engaging argument. Take advantage of the spots where engaging your readers matters the most: the opening and the conclusion. Create interest in the topic and leave readers feeling like the topic matters to them.
- Support your argument with developed body paragraphs. Include sufficient quotes and examples, and demonstrate thoughtful attention to your sources.
- Organize your argument by creating assertive topic sentences, unified paragraphs, and smooth transitions.
- Establish credibility by presenting a convincing, professional-sounding, and professional-looking paper. Maintain a respectful tone, quote and cite according to MLA format, and carefully proofread your essay. **Give special attention to quoting smoothly and accurately.**

**Avoid Plagiarism**—don’t let another source speak for you and rob you of a chance to think and write for yourself; if you use outside sources, give them credit; acknowledge, quote, and cite them whenever necessary.

- Your essay needs to be uploaded to Turnitin.com online and also needs to be submitted as a paper copy.
**Grading Criteria:** Papers will be evaluated upon the effectiveness and clarity with which they address the assignment and meet its objectives.

**Note:** *If you’re interested in approaching this assignment from a different angle, check with me.*

**Format:** 5 full pages (not including the works cited page) in MLA style, typed, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, Times New Roman, double spaced.

**Rough Draft:** This is due for peer review one class before the final draft. Bring two typed copies of your rough draft. At minimum, drafts need to reach the top of the 3rd page. Also, students also need to be in class for peer review credit. Not meeting these goals reduces an essay’s final score by 3.5 points.

**Percentage of Course Grade:** 15%

**Due Dates:** See the Reading & Assignment Schedule. Essays are due at the beginning of class.