Honors LA 10

December 11, 2013

**Class Notes: Short Story Format**

* What was this story (“An Oral History of Adama Bah”) about?
  + A Muslim girl who was moved to the US when she was a year old, went to a religious school, and was arrested after 9/11 based on suspicion.
* How did this story show important elements of a short story format, or what were elements that *should* have been present?
  + A relatively short piece of writing
  + The story was more quickly developed
  + Presented in chronological order
  + Structured as a series of vignettes, or chapters
  + Professional tone
  + Paragraph format
  + A title page with some background information on the story and author
* What was done well?
  + The author included dialogue (in quotation marks) and internal thoughts (in italics)
  + Well-paced action that was presented in order
  + A lucid, or clear and understandable style of writing
  + The subject was compelling
  + The voice of the subject, and the style, were consistent, authentic, and vivid.
  + The reader became invested in the story
* What could be improved?
  + There could be more interesting or specific vocabulary used

Carl Svaren’s Short Story

* What did Carl do well?
  + Smooth transition between his background description and the story format
  + It was hard to tell this story came from an interview
  + The word choice was intense
  + The details were exciting and built tension
  + He used interesting analogies