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