**Honors LA 10** **Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment**: “This I Believe” Introduction **Due**: Monday, September 9th at the beginning of class

**Directions**: Please answer the questions in complete sentences unless otherwise specified.

1. “Beliefs are choices. No one has the authority over your personal beliefs. Your beliefs are in jeopardy only when you don’t know what they are.”

Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not? Use examples to support your opinion.

2. High school is often a time when people solidify their beliefs about life and their morals. Often these are based on the way we were raised.

a. What do you value in life? List as many things you can think of off the top of your head.

b. How did you form these values? (family influence, media, friends)

c. Do you feel your values are constant, or ever-changing? Use some examples.

d. What has been your personal philosophy about life? Is it changing or evolving? Or, what personal philosophies have you heard with which you agree or disagree? Why?

3. Go back to the “This I Believe” essay that you chose yesterday from the three options (Libman, Vutech, or Glaeser). Highlight or underline three quotes that are meaningful to you, and below, explain why you found them important, why you agree or disagree, and/or how they relate to you. You don’t need to rewrite the quotes below.

4. NPR asks that writers of these essays “frame your beliefs in positive terms. Refrain from dwelling on what you do not believe. Avoid restatement of doctrine. Focus on the personal, the ‘I’ of the title, not the subtly sermonizing ‘We.’ While you may hold many beliefs, write mainly of one. Aim for truth without accusation, patriotism without political cant, and faith beyond religious dogma.” Why do you think these criteria are necessary? Which of them is the most important to you personally, and why?

5. Please read Warren Christopher’s “A Shared Moment of Trust.” Highlight or underline at least three quotes as you read, annotating in the margins. Then answer below: What do you believe Christopher’s life philosophy is, based on his essay? What connections can you make between this story/philosophy and your own life?