Writing Assignment

FAMU Freshman Summer Reading Program
Essay Submission – Extended Deadline
(for students who did not attend one of the Summer Orientation Sessions)

All incoming freshman students are required to read an assigned book and complete a writing assignment during the summer preceding the fall 2009 term. Students will subsequently participate in small book discussion groups and a campus-wide forum during Welcome Week in August, and they will be given assignments in various courses throughout the academic year based on the assigned reading. Participation in this activity will help to facilitate the students’ transition from high school to college by giving them an early introduction to the academic expectations of the University, and by allowing them to interact with FAMU faculty and staff before classes begin. This activity will also serve to enhance the students’ critical thinking and communication skills.

Essay assignment:
Select one of the three prompts below and use it to write a well-organized and well-reasoned 500-700-word essay.

Essay Prompt #1: Analyze and evaluate the personal story of one of the authors and discuss how the author’s message parallels (or resonates) with your own personal experiences.

Essay Prompt #2: The author, Rameck, discusses giving back in his chapters. How can his ideas about giving back be applied to the personal, academic, and social realms of your life?

Essay Prompt #3: Analyze the meaning of perseverance according to the authors. Discuss how the 3 D’s helped to shape their course towards academic success.

Essay Evaluation Criteria:
- Clarity and focus: Are the ideas presented logically and coherently? Does the thesis statement clearly address the writing prompt?
- Organization: Does the essay contain an introduction, body, and conclusion?
- Style and mechanics: Is the essay written using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation?
- Analysis: Is sufficient evidence and information presented to support the main conclusion(s) of the essay?

Guidelines for Submission:
1. Include a cover page with the following information:
   a. Title: “FAMU 2009 Freshman Summer Reading Essay.”
   b. Your name, submission date, FAMU ID#, phone number.
   c. The essay prompt that you selected.
2. The essay should be double-spaced.
3. Use 12-point Times or Arial font.
4. The essay length should be 500-700 words.
5. Margins: 1-inch top and bottom, 1.25-inch left and right.
6. Email the essay (MS Word or pdf format only) and cover page to: qep@famu.edu
7. Extended submission deadline: 11:59 p.m. on August 31 2009.