**12th grade Multicultural Literature-Hardage**

***Crash* Journals during and after film**

**For each journal entry 1-4, respond to as many prompts in order to fill up one full page or two pages double spaced. Journal entries must be thoughtful and detailed enough to be read comprehensively without writing the prompts down.**

***Crash* Journal 1: Respond to one or more of the following prompts:**  
Do you think the film reinforces or challenges stereotypes of African Americans, Hispanics, Middle Easterners, Whites, and the police? Are the characters realistic? Believable?

Name two characters who contradict his or her stereotypical role in the film. Make sure you identify what those stereotypes are within your response.

To which character do you most closely relate, identify, or understand? Please explain why.

***Crash* Journal 2: Respond to one or more of the following prompts:**  
A) Where did Officer Ryan appear to get his racist attitudes from? Were you surprised by his actions during Christine’s car accident? Does he fully redeem himself as a character?

B) Why does Hanson stop and pick up a hitch-hiker; in other words, what is he trying to prove to himself? Why does Hanson get upset or “bent out of shape” with Peter? Why is it ironic? How does this scene sum up the central issues of the film? Remember Ryan’s earlier comment about not knowing one’s self? How is that true for Hanson?

a. Just a thought question: what do you think Hanson should have done after shooting Peter?

C) React to the following sets of dialogue from the movie:   
• “They think we’re Arab. When did Persian become Arab?” Shereen  
• You want a lesson? I’ll give you a lesson. How ‘bout a geography lesson? My father’s from Puerto Rico. My mother’s from El Salvador. Neither one of those is Mexico.” / “Ah. Well then I guess the big mystery is, who gathered all those remarkably different cultures together and taught them how to park their cars on their lawns?” Ria and Graham7  
• “Have you noticed that he’s talking a lot less black lately?” /“In this scene he was supposed to say, ‘Don’t be talkin’ ‘bout that.’ And he changed it to: ‘Don’t talk to me about that.’/“All I’m sayin’ is that it’s not his character. Eddie’s supposed to be the smart one—not Jamal. Right? You’re the expert here, but to me it rings false.”

***Crash* Journal 3: Respond to one or more of the following prompts:**  
A) Critic Bill Johnson has said: “….a storyteller [should] have a sense of each character's purpose so every action of every character communicates something to the audience. Something that draws the story's audience into the world of the story. Something that suggests each character's actions have some purpose in advancing the story.” The DA’s wife, Jean, does not have a direct role in the major plotlines. What do you believe is this character’s purpose in the film? 

B) Who was responsible for the death of Graham Waters' brother? Officer Hansen (Tommy)? Graham? His mother? Himself? Please discuss your reasons.

C) After all of the high-powered scenes that came before—especially the scenes of Officer Ryan rescuing Christine, Officer Hanson stopping Cameron’s cop-suicide, and then the miracle of the invisible cloak—why does the film have to include scene 41, where Officer Hanson shoots Peter? What goes wrong in that scene—based on everything you have seen before in the film?

***Crash* Journal 4: Respond to one or more of the following prompts:**  
Irony is when there is a discrepancy between what you can logically expect will happen or be said, and what actually DOES happen. List at least three examples of irony in the film and describe how they are shown.  
  
“Wait until you've been on the job a few more years," Ryan ominously tells Hanson, after the latter has put in for a new partner. "You think you know who you are. You have no idea." How does this prove to be true, for both of them?

***Crash* Journal 5 (independent or in groups of 2-3): Respond to the following prompt and be prepared to share and explain.**  
Imagine the characters of Crash are stranded on an island. The rescue plane can only make one trip to save three characters. Which three characters would you choose? Why?  
  
• Anthony, played by Chris “Ludacris” Bridges   
• Peter, played by Larenz Tate   
• Christine, played by Thandie Newton   
• Cameron, played by Terrance Howard   
• Officer Ryan, played by Matt Dillon   
• Officer Hanson, played by Ryan Phillippe   
• Farhad, played by Shaun Toub   
• Ria, played by Jennifer Esposito   
• Daniel, played by Michael Peña   
• Graham, played by Don Cheadle   
• Rick, played by Brendan Fraser   
• Jean, played by Sandra Bullock   
  
First: Determine the criteria (3 minimum) for boarding the plane. You may want to examine the characters’ background and past. Morals, ethics and values are also possibilities.   
Second: Explain your three choices for rescue. Be sure to include specific examples from the movie. In the conclusion, what could they have done differently to improve their odds of being rescued?