The start of a new school year means several things for students. It means new classes, new teachers, new books and, believe it or not, a new you. Many students don’t realize it, but the beginning of a new school year is like having a bonus New Year’s. It is an opportunity for you to start anew, to reflect on your past academic failures and successes and to set new goals for yourself. For this reason, your first formal writing assignment for this course is to write a goals letter to yourself.

**Assignment:** This assignment should be written in a formal letter format. That means, you will address it to yourself and sign it by yourself. More importantly, you want to explain to yourself what exactly it is **you** want to accomplish in this course by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Think of it this way: you have, in some way, taken an English course since at least the 6th grade. You (presumably) know how to read and how to write. The real question is: how are you going to make this year different? How are you going to push yourself in new ways to make this class more meaningful for you in the end? Even if you don’t love English, and dare say might even dread it, how are you going to at least make this class worth your while?

**Helpful Hints:** If you’re really stuck, make a list of all the English skills you feel like you aren’t “good” at (or rather, have struggled with in the past). Then, choose which of these skills you want to improve upon the most AND how you would like to do this. If you don’t feel like you are struggling with any particular skill, make a list of the aspects of English class you would like to do more of so you can further improve upon and truly master these skills.

**Grading:** This assignment will be worth *50 points.* I will be assessing you on how thoughtfully and honestly you completed this letter-NOT on your personal goals themselves (so don’t be embarrassed to list things like wanting to be a better speller or reader, as long as it is something you truly want to work on. On the flip side, don’t make up lame goals just for the sake of handing in something). I will however ask you to make your goals more than just about grades. Yes, ending the class with a perfect A average would be nice, but what you make of this course will hopefully go beyond the number you have earned.

**Format:** Your final product should be at least *1 page typed* (no more than 2), 12 point font, double spaced. It should be e-mailed to me at nhallqhs@gmail.com. **Please send it from the e-mail address you use most often!***.*

Good luck and happy goal setting ☺