English 11 **What is Truth?**
Choose **three** of the following statements about the nature of "truth" and respond to them in writing. You need not agree with the statements. Simply respond to them and explain your response.

1. A judgment is said to be true when it conforms to external reality. That is, what we believe or what we say is *true* if it corresponds to the way things actually are.
2. The truth or falsity of a representation is determined in principle solely by how it relates to 'things,' by whether it accurately describes those 'things' or not.
3. Truth is whatever is agreed upon by some subset of people or persons. In other words, "truth" is represented by the consensus of a given group.
4. Truth is something that is objectively "testable" and subject to reason/logic/rational thinking.
5. Truth is something that is unchangeable; truth is something that does not change.
6. Truth can be objective.
7. Truth can be understood through reason.
8. There are no absolute truths. Truth is always relative to some particular frame of reference, such as a language or a culture.
9. Nothing outside of your own mind may be interpreted as truth.
10. A belief is true if (and only if) it is part of a coherent system of beliefs.
11. The world exists objectively, independently of the ways we think about it or describe it. Our words and descriptions are about that world.

Give me some synonyms for truth—Truth is...

Now some non-examples. Truth is NOT...

With a partner (or independently, if you prefer): Draw a concept map which represents your definition of truth. Your map **must include** truth, reality, objective/objectivity, subjective/subjectivity, belief, reason, thinking, self/mind, logic, art/literature. You should explain the connection between the component parts of your **concept map**. Do NOT give me a lazy doodle on a page—but give me a thoughtful consideration of these ideas and the ways that they fit together. You may, of course, include more than those terms I've listed here.