SAMPLE WRITING ASSESSMENT TOPICS for On the Decay of the Art of Lying

Now that you have read and analyzed the article On the Decay of the Art of Lying by Mark Twain, it is your turn to respond. Choose either of the topics listed below and write a paper of sufficient length to fully explain your ideas.

1. Mark Twain indicates that everyone is a liar (paragraph 9). Do you agree or disagree? Write an essay for possible publication in the Alverno campus newspaper giving your response to Twain’s statement. Be sure to support your opinions with specific details and evidence.

2. Mark Twain writes about lying because he feels strongly about the topic and has a point that he feels is worth making. Choose a topic about which you have strong feelings. In an essay for possible publication in the Alverno campus newspaper, write about that topic and support your views with specific details and evidence.

NOTE: When you have finished your essay, carefully read it to yourself to see if it has

• A clear focus to let your reader know what you are writing about
• A statement that gives your opinion on the topic
• A sense of introduction, body, and conclusion (your essay needs to have more than one paragraph
• Specific supporting information to clarify general statements
• Sentences that are complete, clear, and varied
• Sentences that follow the rules of grammar