

HOLDEN IT DOWN, HOLDEN STYLE

If you really want to know the truth, you'll probably want to know what the hell we're doing in this goddamn class today. It's not like you'll care or anything. People never care about anything these days. So we have to do this phony creative essay for Mr. Balogh's class.

So old Balogh asks us to write this essay where we have to tell a story from our own lousy lives, but we have to write it the way Holden Caulfield speaks. Holden is this phony character in the most boring book ever. It's called *The Catcher in the Rye*. You'd get a kick out of old Holden. He's always complaining and contradicting himself. Anyway, the assignment is to use Holden's goddamn voice, which is the way that authors make their characters come to life or something. This kills me. It's hard enough for me to write in MY voice.

And then there's the damn requirements. The story must be interesting, old Balogh says. It must have some kind of conflict. Like that's all people do, get in fights or something. That really kills me. He even specified the length: 300-400 words. That kills me too. Some phony bastards will probably count each word. And I bet old Stradlater will want me to write his for him too, the slob. Balogh probably doesn't do anything else but read books and grade student's papers. I mean it, I really do.

English 10 Rubric <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> "Holden It Down, Holden Style Essay"						
0	1	2	3	4	5	Follows the correct essay format (has a clear beginning, middle, and end – intro, body, and conclusion)
0	1	2	3	4	5	Is a narrative of an event in detail with images or descriptive language that the reader can clearly "see"
0	1	2	3	4	5	Has interpreted an event through Holden's eyes (has a clear sense of Holden's speech patterns, vocabulary, and personality)
0	1	2	3	4	5	Shows evidence of effective writing (organization, sentence structure, word choice, spelling, etc.) and has followed requirements
0	1	2	3	4	5	Provides evidence of progress in writing and thinking
/25						Total