Assignment for ENGL 1101 Benchmark Essays

English 1101, Timed Essay
To be written IN CLASS at appointed time
Task: Write an essay that does the following:

Choose a goal that you have for yourself explain one or more strategies you are using to achieve that goal.

Audience and purpose: Suppose that you are writing for the college community in particular and literate, thinking Americans in general. You are presenting yourself as an instructive example of how to achieve a worthy goal in life.

Length: Your essay should comprise at least five well-developed paragraphs. (More than five paragraphs are fine.) It should be at least two pages long (single-spaced hand-writing on standard size college-ruled notebook paper. You are free to double-space if you choose, but then the essay should be at least four pages long).

Introduction and thesis statement: The introductory paragraph should begin by engaging the reader’s interest and end in a clear thesis statement that focuses the essay, expresses a distinct idea, and forecasts the paragraphs that follow.

Style and tone: Write formal academic prose. Use complete sentences. Slang should be used only in special cases, for example, when you are quoting. The first-person pronoun (“I”) is acceptable. Generally avoid the second-person pronoun (“you”), unless there is no better alternative. Avoid clichés: Think your own thoughts and write your own words.

Note the following:
- You are allowed to use a dictionary. No other aids are allowed.
- The essay should exhibit unity of purpose, support for your key points, effective organization of ideas, and coherence among sentences and paragraphs.
- Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization should be correct.
- Please write in ink; no pencil.