**Writing Assignment 3: Texts & Contexts: Literary Analysis as Social Commentary**

For this assignment, you will write a 2-3 page analytic paper about *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage and *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau. Both plays focus on deindustrialization and the current state of labor, unions and the working class in the United States. You may choose one common theme to focus on (for example, unions, poverty and foreclosures, factory closings/lockouts, declining working class living standards, deindustrialization) or you can focus on conflicts that emerge in both plays (i.e. between management and employees as well as gender dynamics in Skeleton Crew, conflicts between workers of different races or ethnic backgrounds as well as gender dynamics in *Sweat*) or you could focus on one character in each play to analyze in more depth or, you could focus on the central message of each play for audiences today.

Your essay should be well-organized with a clear introduction in which you establish your thesis, body paragraphs in which you analyze the plays and a conclusion. In your analysis, you should include at least one or two specific examples and quotations from each play which you will interpret to provide supporting evidence for your paper. You should use Times New Roman 12 point font or the equivalent and maintain default margins. You should also include MLA parenthetical citations and a ‘Works Cited’ page.

**The first draft of the paper is due in class on April 27th, 2017. The final essay is due on May 2nd, 2017.**