English II—Grade 12 Dougherty
Klausur #1, second semester

Write a complete, well-developed essay of at least 700 words about one of the following topics.

1. Discuss the following proposition: "Even where religion is not directly concerned, a moral purpose is frequently discernible in Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*." Agree or disagree with this statement. Articulate your position fully in your thesis, and illustrate that stance by examining *The Canterbury Tales*.

2. Critics have long debated whether the circumstances surrounding Beowulf's successive battles with monsters in the epic poem *Beowulf* suggest a deterioration in the traditional values of Anglo-Saxon society or a moral weakening of the hero Beowulf. Take a side in this debate. Present your argument in your thesis statement, and illustrate your argument through an examination of the three battles in *Beowulf*.