Essay Three:
Your first essay in this class asked you to articulate your basic theological beliefs and consider experiences, events, and contexts that shaped those beliefs. One of the goals of this course is to help you think clearly and critically about your assumptions and beliefs about God and humanity.

In preparation for this third essay, I would like you to revisit what you articulated in essay one—that is, your basic convictions about whether God exists, what God is like, how God relates to the world (particularly to human beings), and how your theological beliefs affect the way you live—or want to live—in the world.

In essay three, attend to the following questions: In light of the work we have done this semester (i.e., with Lamott, Martin, McFague, Migliore, Salinger and others), are there ways in which your ideas about God or yourself have been challenged or changed? Do you see God, religion/theology, or yourself in new ways? What has become clearer to you regarding your faith/beliefs? What new or ongoing questions do you have as a result of this course? Are there particular theological insights that will “stick with you” as you leave this course?

This essay is not meant to be exhaustive. I expect the paper to be succinct; it should be no longer than three pages. Try to avoid generalities. The more specific you can be regarding course material, the better. Please be careful to properly cite the texts when using direct quotes or when paraphrasing. You should indicate author and page number at the end of the sentence when appropriate, and you should include a works cited page.

The essay will be worth 5% of your final grade.