*Everything is Illuminated*

Essay topics: (you must articulate a thesis)

1. What connections does Safran Foer make between fantasy and reality? What is the impact of this relationship on the novel as a whole?
2. Is the “collage” writing style and typography in the novel effective or is it a confusing distraction?
3. What is the role of violence in the novel? Is it gratuitous or does it serve an important purpose?
4. There are many forms of written records in the novel: “The Book of Antecedents,” “The Book of Recurrent Dreams*,*” journals, letters, diaries. In what ways is this significant?
5. What is the role of humour in the novel? Is the humour appropriate for the serious subjects that this novel addresses?
6. So many characters fail to find what they are searching for: in what way is that significant?
7. What is the role of chance and destiny in the novel? Do they function independently, or are they intertwined?