English 11- Shawshank redemption writing assignment

1. The narrator of “Shawkshank Redemption” begins with following comment:

Have I rehabilitated myself, you ask? I don’t even know what that word means, at least as far as prisons and corrections go. I think it’s a politician’s word. It may have some other meaning, and it may be that I will have a chance to find out, but that is the future…something cons teach themselves not to think about…” (15-16)

Should prisons be places for punishment, or places for rehabilitation? Also, explain what you think rehabilitation means. Do you think it is possible for criminals to be rehabilitated? What would Red argue about this? Why? Do you think he has been rehabilitated? What do you think he has learned from his experiences in jail?

1. What does justice mean to you? What are some examples of corruption of the legal process and the corrections process in the movie? What does this film say about justice? Who gets justice and who doesn’t? How does Andy get justice for himself and for the other characters in the movie? Make specific references to the film in your answer.