**Student’s Name**

**Candidate Number 001178-009**

**John McGlashan College**

**English Literature A: WIT Reflective Statement**

***Chronicle of a Death Foretold***

**How was your understanding of cultural and contextual considerations of the work developed through the interactive oral?**

We began the discussion of the novel be talking about why no one in the town attempts to tell Santiago that the twins are out to kill him until just before his death. This in turn led into discussion about the self centred nature of society and the differences between our society and that of the novel, and these improved my understanding of the novel greatly.

At first I decided that there are two major reasons that many of the people did not tell him when they could have. The town is boring, small and isolated, and barely anything interesting ever happens, so when something does no one really wants to stop it. Also, I thought that another reason was because none of the people in the town felt that it was them that had to inform Santiago, because they thought that someone else would. The people only think in the backs of their minds about the plight of Santiago, they are mostly focused on themselves, and I thought that by doing this in the novel the author Marquez highlights the self centred nature of human society. As well as this, I thought about the ways in which this self centred nature effects our own society, how we would like to think that we would not allow and event like the one in the novel to occur in our own society, and yet we constantly see disasters, violence, poverty and other terrible things on the news and do nothing to stop it except feel bad about it.

This linked well to the role of Authority figures in the novel, such as the mayor, officer and priest, who throughout fail to effectively respond to the problem, leading to Santiago’s murder not being stopped when it could have been. The people of the town put their trust in these people, and indeed Clotilde Armenta feels she herself cannot stop the twins, but the figures of authority can. However they completely fail to do so and are in many ways shown as less competent than other, normal people in the town. Again, we would like to think that this would not occur in our society, and yet to solve problems such as poverty, lack of employment and other things in our country and overseas, most of us expect our leaders to do something about it rather than doing something ourselves.