First Essay Assignment

Your first critical essay will evaluate John A. T. Robinson's argument in *Honest to God*. As we've learned, every good essay has a thesis, which is an answer to a critical question. For this first paper, I will give you the critical question from which to develop your thesis:

**Does Robinson develop a viable notion of God beyond those of supernaturalism and naturalism?**

Your thesis will be your answer to this question—either that he develops such a notion or he does not—and should be stated at the end of your introductory paragraph. Each paragraph of your essay should be focused by a clear topic sentence that develops your thesis, indicating why he is, or is not, successful. Focus on a critical analysis of his argument as you develop your criticism. *Please submit with your paper a topic sentence outline of your argument.*

Your essay should be approximately 1250 words in length and should conform to the style presented in *The MLA Handbook* and be typed double-spaced. (See the handout “Writing Critical Essays” for further information on writing this paper.) It is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 16, and will be returned by Wednesday, September 23, with comments for revision. The revised essay is due Wednesday, September 30, at the beginning of class. *Late papers will be penalized a letter grade per day, including any fraction of a day.* Although the first submission will not be graded, papers submitted after the September 16, 9:00 a.m., deadline will also be assessed a late penalty, to be applied against the final grade given to the revised essay.

In addition to your hard copy, please submit your essay to TurnItIn.com. (Instructions for submission to TurnItIn.com will be provided.)