Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

KOSTOPOULOS

English 8-\_\_\_\_

“Failure is Not An Option” – Sharon LaFraniere

A student’s score on China’s high-stakes college entrance exam can determine his or her future.

**Directions:**

Answer the following questions in your Reader’s Notebook. Use details from the article in your answer to support your thoughts. In addition, go beyond the text and reflect on the questions using your own thoughts and insight.

**Your paragraphs must be a MINIMUM of 8-10 sentences.**

1. What sacrifices do you think Chinese students make to prepare for the gaokao? Would you be willing to make such sacrifices for an exam? BE SPECIFIC.
2. Do you think standardized tests like the gaokao, the SAT, and ACT are an accurate measure of student achievement? Defend your view.
3. Do you think high-stakes tests like the gaokao encourage cheating? EXPLAIN.
4. Why might educators say that the gaokao puts rural students at a disadvantage? EXPLAIN.
5. Some Chinese schools set aside the final year of high school for entrance-exam cramming. Do you think this instructional approach is helpful to students? Do you think it ever occurs in the U.S.? EXPLAIN.