I. Read “The Betrayal of the American Male” and answer the following questions.

1. What are some of the reasons Faludi gives as to why there is a “male crisis”?

2. Discuss the views/beliefs that “to be a man you are in control at all times.” What ideas is this belief based on?

3. Discuss what Faludi means when she describes the men in the domestic-violence group as having “lost their compass in the world” and as being “done in by the world”.

4. What is the prevailing image of masculinity?

5. Explain and respond to this quote: “The boy who had been told he was going to be the master of the universe and all that was in it found himself master of nothing.”
6. Explain and respond to this quote: “Celebrity culture’s effects on men go far beyond the obvious showcasing of action heroes and rock musicians.”

7. According to Faludi, what have men lost? How does she compare this to women in the 50’s? How are their issues similar? How are their issues different?

8. Discuss and respond to this quote: “The male paradigm of confrontation has proved worthless to men.”

9. Discuss and respond to this quote: “Their sense of their own manhood flowed out of their utility in a society, not the other way around.”

10. In summary, what does Faludi say is the problem? What is the solution?

11. What is your response to her discussion of the identity crisis for men in America?
II. Read the story inserts in “The Betrayal of the American Male” and answer the following questions.

1. Read “The Broken Promise” on page 51. Write a paragraph (at least 3-4 sentences) discussing a life lesson that the Lomans could learn from Richard Foster or Ike Burr.

2. Read “Glamour in the ‘Hood” on pp. 52-53. Write a paragraph (at least 3-4 sentences) discussing a life lesson that the Lomans could learn from Kody Scott.

3. Read “The Dogs of War” on pp. 55. Write a paragraph (at least 3-4 sentences) discussing a life lesson that the Lomans could learn from Michael Bernhardt.

4. Read “Who’s Keeping Score” on pp. 56. Write a paragraph (at least 3-4 sentences) discussing a life lesson that the Lomans could learn from Billy Shehan.

5. Read “Fast, Yes. Easy? No” from the January 11, 1999 Newsweek. Discuss the concept of the American Dream as it relates to the day traders. How is this dream the same as Willy Loman’s dream? How is it different?
III.  Pick a quote from the reading. You may choose one from the front page or pick one that interests you from the reading packet.

In an essay:

- Introduce the quote (include page number), Write the quote out, and then discuss the quote, explaining what the author means in your own words.
- Then, give your own personal reaction to the quote. How do you feel about it? Do you agree or disagree and why?
- Apply the quote to our current culture. How does the quote apply?
- Apply the quote to Death of a Salesman. How does this quote illustrate how or why characters make the decisions they make or do what they do? Be specific, giving specific examples.