Essay #4
Looking Back at Our Work and Thinking About All We’ve Done…
(You will, again, create your own title for this essay…get creative!)

For the last and final major essay of the term, an essay without a revision, I owe you the opportunity to analyze all the work you’ve done and all that you’ve gained from this course. This opportunity may be all the more important if you are completing your first year in college, though it will be a valuable reflective exercise for all of you. Think of it as an assignment stretching back to the first few weeks of the semester – an opportunity to literally overcome difficulties you face in writing, an opportunity to practice Freire’s problem-posing by considering your own writing-focused realities, and/or an opportunity to discover aspects of sovereignty from your own work. The difficult part of this assignment might be achieving insight and being honest: What has actually happened, for you, over this semester, and what can you say about your experiences that don’t undermine them?

To prep for this assignment, we’ve already started thinking about how your writing processes have improved or changed, and we’ve talked about how you’re gaining actual skills that you’ll be expected to utilize in future classes and projects (Writing Proficiency Elements). Furthermore, re-reading and thinking about your own collection of work will allow you to see more fully how you operate and, more importantly, to be aware of how you can continue to improve and be successful! (This class is not about what I’ve done – it’s about what YOU HAVE done.) We’ll also continue to think about strategies you’ve gained for managing the difficulties all writers face in completing writing assignments.

* The major questions you’ll be thinking about for this essay are as follows:

1. In your opinion, what is the absolute, most important lesson you’ve learned from ENG 101? How will this lesson help you in the future, and how will your improved writing processes impact your performance on future writing assignments? Please explain in detail…

2. How did you deal with difficulties you first faced in this course (or in other writing courses), and how might you manage those same difficulties in the future?

3. Which of your three major essays is the one you can look at and say, “This one. THIS is my best piece.” Please explain why.

4. When considering all of the work you completed for this class, what are a few assignments (reading, writing, or both) that you are most proud of? Can you pin point any of the journal assignments as one/s that you were proud to have completed?

5. As a communicator, do you feel as though you’ve contributed to discussion as much as you wanted to? Will you add to more discussions in your future courses? Why or why not?

6. Why do you think I’ve given a part reflective final exam in ENGL 101?

7. Of all the concepts we explored in our readings, which TWO were the most powerful for you to think about and to apply to your own life? Why?
8. How did this course meet (or not meet [or both]) your expectations? What did you want to learn but didn’t? What questions do you still have?

9. Somewhere in your essay, please reflect on the following quote: “We learn by thinking about what we have done.”

10. Just a note: If you want me to mail Essay #3 revision back to you, please list your mailing address somewhere in Essay #4.

**Your carefully organized essay MUST have the following structural components:**

- **VIP:** An organized method to answering the questions involved in this essay. Do not just go through and write about each one and leave it at that. Rather, you must try to organize an essay around the answers I’m asking for.
- An introductory paragraph (or two) that explains what you’re attempting to do with/in the essay.
- Feel free to use first person in this essay, but please try to avoid using second person (the “you” perspective). This is a good habit to get out of…
- See if you can build transition ideas/concepts/statements to connect each of your points and each of your paragraphs. I’ll be looking for your connections.
- Several body paragraphs that address the major questions you need to consider/explore/answer/write about (see details above).
- A concluding paragraph (or two) that attempts to summarize what you’ve said in your essay (again: more personalized to your experience and ideas, and less general – avoid generic, “you”-perspective, and cliché statements).
- Each paragraph should address ONE (and only one) discussion point or moment of analysis.
- Revise this to your liking (at least ONCE) before you send it along to me….

**Nuts and Bolts (these must be present in your essay.):**

- Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt. font.
- 1.0” margins (the default is 1.25”, you will have to change it!)
- A title for the work you’ve done in your paper
- **Length:** However long you need to address all the pieces of the assignment
- **Brainstorms** – We will brainstorm approaches and ideas over the next few classes
- **Final Draft Due:** By Wednesday, May 22nd via email attachment (do not embed into body of email)
- **NO submissions of Essay #4 will be accepted after 11:59pm on the Wed the 22nd.**
- This essay is worth 15 points toward your final grade

**As always:** please feel free to contact me anytime with comments, questions, or concerns about this. I can meet in person, talk on the phone, email, skype, do Morse Code, smoke signals – whatever.

- **Phone:** 207-671-1033
- **Email:** lindy.briggette001@umb.edu