Unit V—Final Exam

May 2-3, 2014, English 111-32c, 33c, 1cc

***Please read carefully all parts of the instructions, including the ending notes. Remember that a final exam may not be made up. The exam is due by the end of your class period on May 4-5, 2014,***

**Looking Back: A Reflective Essay**

(Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, & 12)

**RIGHT NOW**: reset fonts to Times New Roman, 12 point, double spaces (points will be deducted for incorrect fonts)

 Created by Deborah Morris

From the moment that you, the student, walked in the door of this class on that first day, you have been on a journey. For some of you, it has been a long and arduous trip. For others, it has been an exhilarating climb, a challenging yet empowering trip through previously

unknown territory. Whichever perspective you hold however, it is clear that you have travelled the distance this semester.

This **Reflective Essay Project** is designed to give you a chance to practice **self-assessment** (or evaluation) of your development as a writer this semester. In other words, this project will allow you to explore your development as a writer when you explain and analyze your own writing process at work within the major writing projects that you completed this semester. This semester you have worked on a variety of assignments, and you have likely learned different things about writing --and about yourself as a writer--from each one. You have learned new ways of viewing and reading texts—both print and visual texts—and new ways of constructing texts. You have learned to consider the rhetorical contexts surrounding those texts as well. And you have learned to consider yourself as both a producer and a consumer of texts, too.

Researchers tell us that reflecting and self-assessing are important aspects of learning. In fact, some educational researchers believe that we learn little without these important strategies. So, why not take a few moments to look back over your writing projects from this semester? Look back to your very first assignment at the beginning of the semester. Do you remember working on the project? What fears or struggles did you have as you began the assignment? Did you learn anything new or surprising while working on that project? What new knowledge (or needed reminders) did you take to the next assignment from that first one?

As you look back through each of your major projects, you can ask yourself some of the same questions as you reflect on how your personal writing development this semester. While you analyze your personal progress throughout the semester, you might also recognize certain strengths and weaknesses in your writing. These strengths and weaknesses are important, too. After all, there is no such thing as a perfect writer; all of us have both strengths and weaknesses. So what makes someone a good writer? Practice! When you know which areas you struggle in your writing, it is then possible to focus your attention on those areas of your writing that need the most work. Self-assessment, then, can help you to become a more focused and effective writer.

**Learning Objectives**

* To critically consider one’s own writing (ie. critical reading, reflection, self-assessment)
* To demonstrate an understanding of one’s own writing process
* To apply principles and strategies learned throughout the semester within a personal piece of writing

This assignment builds on previous assignments, material from many chapters in *The Norton Guide to Writing* textbook, and on material from our classroom discussions and in-class activities all semester.

**Assignment Specifics**

* Your Reflective Essay should be **personal and reflective** in nature, and should **demonstrate an understanding of your growth as a writer** this semester. All major papers should be considered (and discussed) within this reflection/self-assessment. **NOTE: this essay is NOT an analysis or commentary on the instructor—YOU are the focus.**
* The essay must be **two to three double-spaced pages** (approx. 750-1,000 words). Times New Roman, size 12, font should be used.
* Since this is a personal reflection, first-person perspective is necessary.
* **Be specific!** Your explanations and analyses should be clear and detailed. Vague, generalized ramblings are not acceptable.
* . **Your sources are “you”.** Use your past writings for reference; there is not a need to search for other sources
* **MLA style may be used—**place name, date, Unit V: Looking Back in upper left corner of the first page. Number pages in MLA style (see texts if in doubt).
* **Grading Criteria**

A strong Reflective Essay will

* Exhibit careful thought, reflection, and self-assessment about the writing projects that were completed throughout the semester and about your personal writing process
* Give specific details and strong explanations of your personal reflections/assessments
* Demonstrate an understanding of your own writing process (esp. strengths & weaknesses)
* Be a focused, well-developed essay that has been carefully revised to meet all of the project requirements and all of the expectations for a strong ENG 111 paper

*Good writing is straight thinking, but the kind no one does the first time around; it is the resolution of all the necessary false starts, the directions half taken, the ideas grasped separately that turn out on explanation to be one. ~* ~ a quote by Daniel Howard

Special note

**May 9-10 \**CONFERENCES: If you have any final questions or concerns about this class you must come during this time. If you have no questions on your grades, you do not need to attend at all. KEEP IN MIND: This will be the final day to discuss your grades, so if you do not ask questions about your grade, you are saying your grades are accurate—i.e., after this day, there will be no discussion of your grade. No late or missing work may now be submitted.***

 ***Mr. Murphy’s hours on May 9-10 (you may attend any of these times regardless of what section you are enrolled in).***

 ***Friday: May 9: HM 1216, 9 am to 1 pm ONLY***

 ***Saturday: May 10: CC 2306, 9am to 10:30 am ONLY***

Thank you for a very enjoyable semester!