**Writing Journal**

**Purpose:** the writing journal is where you will record your own reflections on your progress as a writer in this class, responding to regular prompts throughout the semester. This is a space for setting your own goals and regularly checking in to see how you are doing with them, though you will be asked to evaluate yourself in terms of process and not just product, observing your work habits and level of personal investment in your work and how these contribute to your achievement of tangible outcomes.

**Evaluation:** the journal itself will be graded on a completion basis. As long as each entry is completed on time, you will get full credit for the assignment. However, this journal is also designed to provide feedback for your instructor as well as you, the student. Your final self-evaluation will also be given very serious consideration when your final grade for the course is being decided.

**Format:** Your journal should be kept in a Google Doc that is shared with my NES email address: asquires@nes.ru. Please do not share it with my gmail address. If you need help in setting up this Google Doc, please ask me or my teaching assistant.

**Length:** Entries can be as long as they need to be, but aim for a minimum of 100 words.

**Prompts:**

1. Initial self-evaluation
2. Information habits reflection
3. Pre-writing analysis I
4. Editing checklist I
5. Revision plan I
6. Mid-term self-evaluation
7. Pre-writing analysis II
8. Editing checklist II
9. Feedback seeking and revision
10. Final self-evaluation
11. **Initial self-evaluation:**

Reflect on the following questions: How do you understand your own strengths and challenges as a writer? What sort of feedback have you received in the past on your writing in any language? What is your own subjective impression?

Write down 3-4 goals for the term. These should be more specific than “be a better writer.” You can indicate what grade you are working toward or some other concrete goal, even if it’s as basic as “turn in every assignment on time” or “write a little bit every day.”

1. **Information habits reflection:**

Over the course of a few days, observe and make note of your own information habits. Where are the places you are absorbing information passively (television, Facebook, etc.)? Where do you typically go if you want to find out more about a topic? Are you satisfied with your sources or do you think some habits need to change?

1. **Pre-writing analysis I:**

During class you were asked to attempt one of the pre-writing methods discussed during the lesson. Which one did you attempt and how did it work out for you? Is this different from how you normally go about starting a writing project? What will you do differently next time?

1. **Editing checklist I:**

Use the editing checklist provided to go over your current draft of Major Essay I. Which mistakes are you prone to? Do you understand why they are mistakes? What further information/practice might help you commit these mistakes less frequently in the future?

1. **Revision planning:**

Look a feedback provided on your first draft and write a few sentences on how you feel about it. Do you understand it? Does it frustrate you? Surprise you? Encourage you? Next, make a list of the things you were asked to correct. Mark items in the order they are to be completed, beginning with top-level, higher order stuff and working your way down to the detailed stuff. Make notes to yourself as you go about how you will deal with more complex revisions.

1. **Mid-term self-evaluation:**

Go back and look at your self-evaluation from the beginning of the term. How are you doing so far? How are you progressing toward the goals you set? If you were to give yourself a grade for the term so far, what would it be?

1. **Pre-writing analysis II:**

Reflect on your pre-writing process for your short analyses as well as Major Essay II (if you have started). Did you try anything different this time? Did it work any better? What will you do for future projects?

1. **Editing checklist II:**

Go through the checklist with Major Essay II and reflect on your improvement since last time.

1. **Feedback seeking and revision:**

Finding good sources of feedback is key to your development as a writer. Make an appointment in the Writing Center or find some other person outside of class whom you trust to give you feedback. Show them the latest revision of Major Essay II and ask for advice on it. Then write a brief reflection on the experience. Would you go to that person again? How are you going to go about responding to their recommendations? Be sure to note who you talked to and why you chose them.

1. **Final self-evaluation:**

Assess your own performance in this class using the goals you set in Prompt #1. Consider not only the outcomes you achieved but the effort you put into achieving them. What might you do differently in future courses where writing is a significant part of evaluation? Do you feel you have gained new habits/skills that will help you in the future?