

ENG 390
Fall 2019
Assignment 1
50 points (5%)

Readings

“Habits of Mind” (handout)

“Rice Paddies and Math Tests” & “Marita’s Bargain” by Malcolm Gladwell

“Pedagogy of the Oppressed” by Paulo Freire (handout)

Selected readings from *They Say, I Say*

Your writing, and the writing of your classmates

Prompt

Tell the story of your educational experiences related to reading and/or writing. When you think back to your experiences in school or in learning, what primary feeling or feelings do you connect with those experiences? How do you feel or how have you felt about yourself as a learner? *For the purpose of this assignment, “education” is defined as any experience that has helped to define or inform your relationship to reading and/or writing.* 2-3 pages.

Some things I’d like you to include, not necessarily in this order:

-Choose 2-3 key experiences that help illustrate your feelings about learning, particularly learning related to reading and writing. Explain how these experiences relate: do they all have something in common – perhaps a common conclusion or result, or a common way they made you feel? Or, do these experiences reveal contrasting feelings, or your growth as a reader and writer?

-Explain how 1-2 specific ideas from the readings relate to your educational experiences. Remember, don’t limit your analysis to just your English classes. You’ve done reading and writing in many of your classes and educational experiences.

-In one of the two sections above, or in a separate section of your paper, please include some discussion of your past experiences with academic reading and writing. If you like doing these things, why do you? If you don’t, why not? Do you feel confident in these areas? Do you feel a sense of purpose or a desire for mastery in these areas? Why or why not?

-Please close by bringing me up to the present -- what do you want to get out of this particular English class? Is there anything you’d like me to know so that I can support your learning? Anything you’re concerned about? Anything you feel excited about?

How Will I Be Graded?:

Did I respond to the prompt, making sure to answer its question or question as fully as possible?

Did I include all of the specific details that I was asked to include?

Did I write my paper in MLA format?

Is my writing easy to read and understand?

Is my writing proofread carefully for errors and/or typos?