**Identity Analysis**

**Purpose**: The goal of this assignment is to enhance your ability to analyze your experiences and your culture and place these in contexts that are of importance and interest to an audience of your peers.

**Task**: Using the readings from the textbook and discussions in class, think about the different ways in which you identify yourself and others identify you. Choose one aspect of your identity and analyze how your understanding of and experience as this identity has been constructed through your culture, including discussions of community and media influences. How did you learn what it meant to be this identity? How has being this identity affected your life? How has your concept of or experiences as this identity changed over time? You may need to discuss how other aspects of your identity have affected your experience as the identity you’ve chosen to write about. This doesn’t mean, however, that you need to write about your entire life; in 3-4 double-spaced pages, you only have enough space to engage and analyze a couple significant influences and effects—and possibly only one. As you write, imagine your readers—both your classmates and me—continually asking you “So what?” This will help you move from description to analysis.

**Format**: The final essay should be between 3-4 pages. Turn in your final copy in a folder; include the initial draft, the prewriting, and any peer-group suggestions you received.

All work except that done in class must be word-processed. (When applicable, use MLA conventions.) A final paper should be treated as a professional work and should look that way. This means typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides in Times New Roman or equivalent font in 12 pt. size (Arial, for example, is not equivalent in 12 pt.) unless discussed with and approved by me. All work should always be proofread by hand. As Brenda Hills warns, “Dew knot trussed yore spell chequer two fined awl yore mistakes.” I reserve the right to not evaluate and assign a grade to any written assignments that do not follow these guidelines.

**Evaluation**: Your paper will primarily be evaluated based on the criteria discussed in class as it relates to analysis, purpose, and cohesion. Keep in mind your essay should be placed within a context (an event, a class/teacher, a medium), offer enough details to be interesting and clear, be organized logically, work from a consistent point of view, and address a significant point/purpose. Failure to bring drafts or other writing on the date due for such work will lower the grade for this paper.

**Due Dates**:

Rough Draft Monday, September 17

Peer Review Monday, September 17 in class and on Bb

Final Friday, September 21