**Morris**

**ENGL 1100-040**

**Project 1: Writing to Reflect**

**Context**

For better or worse, we are where we come from. We are all shaped by our individual and shared experiences, even and sometimes especially by the shared experiences that happened long before we were born. This is because the way we experience life will always be attached to people and places, and those people and places will always have histories that shape the way we interact with and in them. Many of us could only boast a limited awareness of the histories of the neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties that we grew up in. We usually have even less knowledge about the histories of the new places and spaces we come to call home. Nonetheless, the histories of those places contribute to who we are and who we will become, and the more we can learn about the histories attached to those places, the better we can come to understand ourselves and others.

**What to do**

For this project, you will write an essay focusing either on a specific place where you have spent a significant amount of your life, or on the place where you intend to spend the next four years. You will conduct research on the history that shaped that place and how you have or will experience it. You will then put that new knowledge in direct conversation with your sense of self. How have you been or how will you be effected by that history and your investigation of it?

To craft a strong essay, you will need to focus heavily on a single event or moment that has helped shape the specific place you have chosen. Broad histories are NOT acceptable for this project. If it was a state, national, or international event, then it must intimately connect to specific outcomes that shaped a specific place for a small and specific population at a specific point in history leading directly to your own experiences of and in that place.

You should write this essay as a narrative that includes dialogue and descriptive depth. To help you engage more with this project and the writing process itself, I will be completing my own submission using the small downtown area of the town I recently moved to, Plymouth, NC.

**Academic Purpose**

The goal of this project is to help you develop as a writer and researcher through reflective critical identity analysis. In working on this project you will begin to better understand how academic essays are structured, how to effectively incorporate research, and how to engage your audience and yourself in active critical thinking and self-reflection.

**Audience**

Your audience for this essay will be your ENGL 1100 classmates.

**Length**

Your essay MUST fall within a 1000 word minimum, and a 1250 word maximum. Do not use filler to bulk a weak essay instead of putting in appropriate time and effort to develop your drafts and elicit quality feedback from others. For some of you, meeting the requirements for length may mean engaging in deeper research and/or reflection, while for others it may mean making hard decisions about what to exclude.

**Format**

Your entire essay must be typed with 1” margins and citations of sources when/where applicable in MLA or APA. We will spend a full class period on constructing the necessary citations.

**Important Dates** (see unit schedule for more info)

9/01: Submit a 250-300 word summary of your intended Project 1 essay narrative to **DB**.

9/04: Post your research plan to **DB**

9/05: Post your completed outline to **DB**.

9/09: Post rough drafts of at least 1 Full, single-spaced page to **DB**.

9/14: Peer Review

**9/15:** Polished draft of Project 1 is due for assessment and grading via ***link in unit folder***