**Morris**

**ENGL 1100-066**

**Project 1: Writing to Reflect**

**Context**

Nature. Love it or loathe it, as a species we will always need nature, and we will always have personal ways of connecting with it. In sharing the stories of our connections with nature we can better understand how the natural world has shaped the course of our lives, and we can build bridges between ourselves and those with whom we seek some common ground. After all, in a very real way, we are the stories we tell.

**What to do**

For this project, you will write a **non-fiction** essay focusing on your personal relationship with nature. You will begin from the experience of a single moment in time and place, and you will reflect on how that single experience with the natural world signifies your continuing connection to or disconnection from nature and how those connections shape the values you place on both nature and technology.

You should write this essay as a personal reflection which includes description, narration, information, analysis, and evaluation. While description, narration, and information are all necessary aspects of good storytelling with a specific audience and purpose in mind, analysis and evaluation help you determine and express not only the value that story has in your own life, but also what value it may have for members of your intended audience. Setting a clear scene, crafting realistic dialogue, having compelling characters, and ensuring that your plot aligns with the reality of your very real experiences will be important, but you must also establish value for your reader by articulating the “bigger picture.” We will discuss successful and unsuccessful examples of this in class.

**Academic Purpose**

The goal of this project is to help you develop as a writer through reflective critical identity analysis. In working on this project you will begin to better understand how academic essays may be structured, how to effectively incorporate narrative, and how to engage your audience 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 reflection, while for others it may mean making hard decisions about what to exclude.

**Format**

Your entire essay must be typed with 1” margins. You will need a compelling title for the essay, and citations of sources when/where/if applicable in MLA or APA.

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

8/28: Submit a 200-250 word summary of your intended Project 1 essay to **DB**.

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

9/12: Peer Review

**9/13:** Polished draft of Project 1 is due for assessment and grading via ***link in unit folder***