

## First Semester Exam – 2019-2020

During the course of this semester you have written a number of expository, inquiry-based, and research papers. For the midterm evaluation, you will compile your work and evaluate yourself as a writer. You will also hold a conference with your ECE instructor to discuss your work during the first half of this course.

The pieces listed below will be re-evaluated in your portfolio reflection essay. This is essay needs to be uploaded to Turnitin.com on the day of your exam (earlier if you need to meet with me earlier).

Essay #1- *They Say I Say* essay

Essay #2- College application personal essay

Essay #3 – Political Choice essay – civil disobedience

Essay #4 – Education research paper

Essay #5 – Hamlet paper

Essay #6 – Language paper

### ***Reflection paper assignment (4-6 pages)***

**In a 4-6 page, typed response, evaluate your growth as a writer over the course of the semester. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses as a rhetor and use evidence (quotes!!) from your own papers as support. You should use the questions on the next page to help you focus your reflection to be as clear and honest as possible. You should also use the comments made on your papers – read them on Turnitin.**

**After a page or two of a general overview of the writing you have produced this semester, choose to focus on one essay in particular (NOT the college app). Apply the same rhetorical close reading skills we apply to published writers to your own work – how does the rhetorical triangle apply to your writing? What tropes and schemes are you using? Have your choices of diction and syntax been appropriate by assignment? What specific phrases, sentences or paragraphs are you particularly proud of? Which do you wish you would have changed and why? How well are you incorporating your own voice to establish authority? As part of your review of practice, you may also use this ONE paper from the second quarter as a re-write for a replacement grade (not averaged).**

**The end of your reflection should include some goal setting as well – what specific compositional skill will you focus on in the coming semester?**

**Due at conference time.      Date: \_\_\_\_\_      Time: \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Growth questions/prompts**

- What are the strengths of your work? Weaknesses?
- What would you work on more if you had additional time?
- How has your \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., writing, fluency, preparation, organization, thought process...) changed since last year?
- What do you know about \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., literary criticism, rhetoric) that you did not know at the beginning of the year (or semester, etc.)?

- Looking at (or thinking about) an earlier piece of similar work, how does a latter piece of work compare? How is it better or worse? Where can you see progress or improvement?
- How did you get "stuck" working on a task? How did you get "unstuck"?
- One skill I could not perform very well but now I can is ....
- From reviewing this piece I learned ....

#### **Goal-setting questions/prompts**

- What is one thing you can improve upon in the next semester?
- What is a realistic goal for the end of the year?
- What is one way you will try to improve your writing/writing process?
- One thing I still need to work on is ....
- I will work toward my goal by ....

#### **Evaluation questions/prompts**

- If you were a teacher and grading your work, what grade would you give it and why?
- Using the appropriate rubric (AP, UConn, standardized), give yourself a score and justify it with specific traits from the rubric.
- What do you like or not like about this body of work?

#### **Effort questions/prompts**

- How much time have you generally spent on these products?
- The work would have been better if I had spent more time on ....
- I am pleased that I put significant effort into ....

#### **Overall portfolio questions/prompts**

- What would you like your \_\_\_\_\_ (instructor) to know about or see in your portfolio?
- What does the portfolio as a whole reveal about you as a learner (writer, thinker, etc.)?
- A feature of this portfolio I particularly like is ....
- In this portfolio I see evidence of ....

Source:

<http://jfmuller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/portfolios.htm>

Jon Mueller. Professor of Psychology, [North Central College](#), Naperville, IL.