Essay #1: Reflective Essay

DUE: February 26th (Emailed and hard copy)

First Draft: February 5th. Second Draft: February 19th

15% of final grade

3-4 Pages

**ESSAY OVERVIEW:**

For your first formal assignment of the semester, you are being asked to address the course theme from your own personal experiences. Unlike the next two assignments, the Reflective Essay does not ask you to discuss outside sources, and instead asks you to explore an issue or cause that is of interest or importance to you. Think of some issue or cause that you are passionate about. It could be something like body shaming, racial discrimination, the wage gap, gun control, animal rights, or anything else you can think of. Explain to your readers how it is that you became involved in or passionate about this cause and try to convince your readers why this cause is so important and/or what they should do about it. Your final essay should draw from your own experience and opinions, but it should do so in order to make a specific argument or point. As your first formal assignment for this course, the Reflective Essay is designed to help you begin thinking about, not only the theme of the course, but also how to write thesis-driven essays, something we will continue to do throughout the semester.

**Grading Criteria:**

In order to do well, your essay should do the following:

* Select a cause or issue that you are passionate about
* Discuss how you became passionate about this issue
* Persuade your readers to take action (this is your thesis)
* Draw from personal experience to develop and support your thesis
* Engage with your imagined audience in creative ways
* Have an imaginative and informative title
* Have a clear and logical progression of ideas and moments, including transition words and phrases when necessary
* Be mindful of sentence style and structure (including word choice, grammar and spelling)
* Show revision and improvement from first to final draft
* Follows attached rubric
* Meet the minimum page requirement listed above (3-4 pages)
* Be completed and turned in on or before the due date (including drafts)
* Adhere to proper MLA format (double spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font, 1-inch margins, proper page heading shown below:

|  |
| --- |
| Last Name #  Student Name    Professor X    English 111    DATE    Informative and Engaging Title      Start first paragraph here……. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Needs Improvement** | **Unacceptable** |
| **IDEAS (25 points)** |  |  |  |  |
| ADHERENCE TO TOPIC: student’s essay explores the assigned topic and remains on topic throughout | 15 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| THESIS: Student makes an argument about what readers should do regarding selected topic. | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| **CONTENT (55 points)** |  |  |  |  |
| DEVELOPMENT: Student’s narrative follows an interesting and logical progression, making use of transition words and phrases whenever necessary | 20 | 16 | 12 | 0 |
| SUPPORT: Student provides clear and relevant support to convince readers to follow the essay’s thesis. | 15 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| DESCRIPTION: Student provides details and descriptions whenever necessary to help the reader picture and understand what is being discussed | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| WRITING STYLE: Student is aware of  intended audience and caters writing  style to that audience. Student uses a  variety of sentence structures and styles  in a way that is engaging for the reader. | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| **STYLE (20 points)** |  |  |  |  |
| MECHANICS: Student shows clear evidence of proof reading and has been thoroughly checked for spelling and grammatical issues. | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| FORMAT: Student follows strict MLA  Format and meets minimum page count  requirement | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

REFLECTIVE NARRATIVE RUBRIC

COMMENTS: