**Writing Assignment 2: The Personal is Political: Creative Non-Fiction Assignment**

For this assignment, you will write a 2-3 page narrative essay drawing on a personal experience that sheds light on a current social, ethical or political issue.

Using Jesmyn Ward’s memoir as a model or inspiration, you could write about a personal experience that led to a more profound awareness of a contemporary social, political or ethical issue OR about an important person in your life whose story in some way provides an opportunity to reflect on or raise awareness about a contemporary social, political or ethical issue.

While your essay is a narrative, drawing primarily on your experience or that of an important person in your life, it should also include some research to provide a broader context for the personal experience you write about in your essay. Here too, use *Men We Reaped* as a model which incorporates both personal experience and research to reflect on life “at the confluence of history, of racism, of poverty, and of economic power” (237).

For all narratives, you should:

* organize your essay with a clear beginning, middle and end
* include an engaging introduction which introduces the topic & captures the reader’s attention
* include vivid detail, description, sensory imagery
* include dialogue and/or other narrative techniques to bring the experience to life
* reflect on the experience and how it sheds light on a current social, ethical, or political issue
* incorporate research on the social, ethical or political issue you are addressing and cite it correctly
* use appropriate language and pay attention to conventions and grammar