**How to Make a Connection to a Reading -- Two Student Examples**

We have read quite a few author’s writings. Look back at our syllabus! You are required to make a connection to at least one of the readings. There is a reason you are reading as well as writing in this class. Remember RLW. You learn to write by reading professional writers. Have you been paying attention? Have you understood the readings? Have you learned from their writing?

Where is your required connection to one of our readings? Which reading do you feel your essay has a connection to?

1. TO do this, first name the title and author of reading
2. Then choose a quote from the reading that reminds you of your own situation
3. Then examine that quote and explain the point that writer was making there.
4. THEN explain exactly how your situation is the same or different to that quote you chose.

**Here is who one student paper made a connection to “Mother Tongue” Sample Student Excerpt #1**

Looking back my whole life I always wanted to be in the medical field. When I was little, I wanted to be a nurse just like her. I would always levitate towards things in the medical world and the upcoming healthcare innovations and always wanting to help people no matter how small it may have been. This lesson I learned from my mother helps me in my world today to move forward in my life in every way to build a great future for myself.

I can relate to “Mother Tongue, By Amy Tan'' because Amy Tan learned she had to get an education in order to better the quality of her life '' I think my mother’s English almost had an effect on limiting my possibilities in life.” Amy Tan saw that her mother was always treated poorly for her broken English throughout her life. Although she had experienced difficulties, she always showed such resilience and became an English major and went on to write a book. I relate to her because in my life I have always had to remain resilient.

**Another way to think of How to Make A Connection to a Reading**

1. Signal phrase
2. Explain the situation
3. Copy the quote
4. ‘Explain the connection / similarity

Here is how another student made a connection to Malcolm X Sample Student Essay Excerpt #2

From that day forward, everyday during my lunch period and a few days a week after school, I was in the tech office. 1. [SIGNAL PHRASE] I felt like Malcolm X 2. [EXPLAIN THE SITUATION] when he discovered books and reading while serving time in prison.  3. [COPY THE QUOTE] He wrote: “Anyone who had read a great deal can imagine the new world that opened.  Let me tell you something: From then until I left that prison, in every free moment I had, if I was not reading in the library, I was reading on my bunk.”  4.[ EXPLAIN THE CONNECTION/SIMILARITY.] For him it was books; for me it was tech.  I learned to uninstall computer parts, install new ones, how to troubleshoot and how computer parts communicated with each other. At the end of the school year, Andrew offered me a job over the summer working in the tech department. I was delighted. I accepted and counted the days until the work started.