Notes from class discussion of “My American Journey” by Colin Powell.

We are studying the genre of the education narrative.

The conventions of a narrative: tells a story, has events that move the story forward.

The conventions of an education narrative: Is a reflection about your educational journey, how you got to be who you are today.

We analyzed the structure of the essay. The structure allows us to see how this text was “built.”

Here is an outline we created. An outline sets up the structure/organization of the text. You can write an outline before you write to get your ideas down and have a working structure (can change as you write) AND you can write an outline after a text is written to study how it was built and to check you

1. Intro – Hook – draws the reader in from the start
2. One paragraph hook: The reason why Powell chose CUNY: $
3. First day
4. Details and Description of his first day
5. Raymond the Bagel Man
6. Joining ROTC Pershing Rifles
7. The uniform
8. Skills he learned from being in ROTC
9. Ways he changed for the better from being in ROTC
10. Ronnie Brooks, a mentor, older student in ROTC
11. Closing Ending
12. Pays tribute to his parents
13. Pays tribute to public education
14. The bigger message – the take away for the reader

You can achieve success from studying at a public state university. You don’t need to go to a fancy university to achieve.