Fall 2013

Composition 1101

Prof. Scanlan

Essay 2: Narrating Your New York: Facts, Feelings, and Story

This essay asks you to tell a story about your New York in which you describe at least one specific place. More specifically, you need to synthesize several ideas together into one essay. How you organize the essay is up to you, but your essay must be a personal narrative, you need to mention “city of fact” and “city of feeling” in some way, you need to describe at least one place, and you need to incorporate quotations from our readings. In order to get started, I encourage you to think of each of the articles that you have read for this essay as excellent models of a “Narrating Your New York” essay. For example, consider how Whitehead and White use different styles to describe their own version of New York. Consider using Ian Frazier’s “Take the F” as a model: you could chose your own train line and use that as the organizing principle. Consider Katie Roiphe’s article; she uses flashback to tell a story about Coney Island and family. Also, do not forget that the place where you dwell, your neighborhood, might be an excellent theme, place, or organizing principle for this essay.

Article Authors:

Colson Whitehead

Katie Roiphe

Langston Hughes (poem)

Ralph Ellison

Anna Quindlen

Ian Frazier

Willie Perdomo (poem)

Nelson George

E.B. White.

Ideas to Explore:

\* Make sure that your story is a personal story, not someone else’s.

\* Consider visiting some New York places and writing about them on-site.

\* Think about organizing your essay in terms of places or chronology or ideas.

Your essay will be graded in terms of **FOUR** major features:

1. A clear introduction, title, thesis, and method.

2. Concrete nouns, well-structured sentences, and clear paragraphs.

3. Incorporate at least two direct quotations from our readings; include a Works Cited at the end of the paper.

4. Clear narrative elements such as plot and details, as well as a beginning, middle, and end.

Details: Your essay must be between 600 – 700 words long. It must be typed, double-spaced, and use a standard 12-point font. Please use spell-check and grammar-check. Use standard 1-inch margins and MLA format (see the Purdue OWL on our OpenLab website for guidance. You may use the Journal Template as an Essay Template, too).

**Due Dates:**

**Please note updated due dates:**

Oct 8: First Draft due in class. Two pages minimum. Peer review day.

Oct 10: Final Draft Due in class: in folder with process work.