**Essay 1: Shaping Identity: Diaries, Journals, and Autobiographies (25%)**

English 2200, fall 2013, Prof. Scanlan

Basic Directions: Students must write a 3-4-page essay that examines of one the personal narratives from our textbook. Students have two objectives when writing this essay. First, students must use at least two of the critical terms that we have discussed this semester when analyzing the personal narrative. Second, students must describe and analyze the writer’s identity. This second objective should reveal whether the writer focuses on interior (inner) or exterior (outer) observations/reflections.

For Example: A student decides to write about Sarah Kemble Knight. After re-reading her diary, the students realizes that setting, the theme of food, and storytelling (narration) is important to understanding Knight’s identity. These three terms: setting, food (theme), and humorous stories within her diary entries (narrative) are all central to understanding her motivations and character.

Recommended Steps:

1. Briefly summarize the narrative that you have chosen (2-3 sentences).

2. State your thesis: what are you trying to argue? And why did you select certain terms/tools?

3. Should you define your terms?

4. Analyze the narrative making use of your terms as organizing principles.

5. Write using complete sentences and well-developed paragraphs with strong topic sentences.

6. Conclude with an estimation on the purpose of the narrative or the goal of the writer.

Reading Tool: Three-Part Method:

1. Character The Reader, The Text, The World

2. Setting

3. Plot, narration

4. Themes and symbols

5. Language, style, structure

Terms:

History

Home

Homesickness

Colonial Homesickness

Colonialism

Dissent

Imperialism

Postcolonialism

Puritan/Puritanism

Renaissance

Enlightenment

Diary

Journal

Autobiography

Confession

Personal Narrative Readings:

■ Richard Frethorne

■ Mary Rowlandson

■ Samuel Sewall

■ Cotton Mather

■ Sarah Kemble Knight

■ William Byrd

■ Benjamin Franklin

■ Samson Occom

■ Olaudah Equiano

Essential Details:

1. Include at least four direct quotations (see Purdue OWL on our OpenLab site).

2. Provide an MLA style works cited entry for the personal narrative you have selected at the bottom of your essay.

3. Page length: 3-4 pages, typed, using standard margins, fonts, and font size (12). Use

 MLA format. See Purdue OWL or me for details on formatting. No Cover page, please.

4. Due Date: October 24, 2013. Late papers will not be accepted; early papers are always accepted.