May I be of Service?
English 1101 Final OpenLab Project

Purpose:

o You will create a public OpenLab site that will be used as a guide for the City Tech campus and the surrounding community, including the Brooklyn Waterfront.

o This assignment will not only ask you to create a place-based service learning project, but as part of a First Year Learning Community, you will also experience a range of shared experiences with your classmates and, ultimately, with your audience.

Audience:

o The client for this project will be City Tech's Student Activities office. The audience for the OpenLab site will be the City Tech community, including new and existing students at City Tech, faculty and staff, and friends and relatives of City Tech students.

Task:

o Create a public OpenLab site in which you will post interesting and useful information about the City Tech campus and the surrounding area. This site will include:

   o **College Skills**: Using the essay, "Components in a Comprehensive Definition of College Readiness," you will choose one college readiness concept that you think is important for new college students to understand. You will create an organized essay that fully explains the focused concept, gives an example of how that concept might be applied in a specific academic or career field, uses appropriate explanatory strategies, and smoothly integrates outside sources.

   o **City Tech Places**: Each of you will profile a different location on campus and post a short essay describing the location from your perspective, providing important information about it, including interviews with faculty/staff, and including any other information you think might benefit students who are interested in learning more about the location.

   o **Local Grub**: Each of you will choose one restaurant, cafe, market or other eating/drinking establishment within walking distance of our campus (including the Brooklyn Waterfront), and you will write a review. Your review will include a vivid description of the establishment and its location in relation to campus, an overall judgment, an explanation of the criteria with which you evaluated the establishment, and a convincing argument that supports your evaluation.

By the end of the project, you will achieve the following learning outcomes:

o **Knowledge**: Focus on a purpose, Respond to the needs of different audiences, Respond appropriately to different kinds of rhetorical situations, Use conventions of format and structure appropriate to the rhetorical situation, Adopt appropriate voice, tone, and level of formality, Write in several genres, Use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating

- o **Skills (Inquiry/Analysis)**: Understand a writing assignment as a series of tasks, including finding, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing appropriate primary and secondary sources, Integrate a student's own ideas with those of others and practice summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, and documenting this work in various writing projects
- o **Integration (Information Literacies)**: Learn common formats for different kinds of texts, Develop knowledge of genre conventions ranging from structure and paragraphing to tone and mechanics, Practice appropriate means of documenting research sources, Control such surface features as syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling, Use digital tools and environments for drafting, reviewing, revising, editing, and sharing texts

Resources:

- o For this project, you should use field research (including observation and interview) along with authoritative internet and print sources.
- o You should also consult your textbook, *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing,* for examples of the genre, prewriting activities, and a detailed explanation of the basic features.
- o Be sure to utilize the print and electronic resources available in the Ursula C. Schwerin Library (http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/)

Format:

- o Over the semester, you will be assigned the Explaining a Concept: College Skills, Profiling a Place: City Tech Places and the Justifying an Evaluation: Local Grub essays as individual units. For each unit, you will participate in invention activities, write a rough draft of the essay, participate in a peer review workshop, revise your essay, and submit a final draft via Safe Assignment. You will then have to complete a conference and additional revision before posting your essay on our *May I Be of Service?* OpenLab Project Site for public viewing.
- o At the end of the semester, you will write a brief reflective essay that discusses your experience working with a client, working with peers, the process of writing and publication, lessons learned, and a self-assessment.

Assessment:

Your individual essays will be assessed using the English Department's rubric along with the basic features of the specific genre in which you are writing.

- o Rubric Assessment Categories: Content, Structure, Sophistication of Language, Mechanics
- o Basic Features for Explaining a Concept: A Focused Explanation, A Readable Plan, Appropriate Explanatory Strategies, Smooth Integration of Sources
- o Basic Features for Profiling a Place: Detailed Information about the Subject, A Clear Organizational Plan, A Role for the Writer, A Perspective on the Subject
- o Basic Features for Justifying an Evaluation: A Well-Presented Subject, A Well-Supported Judgment, An Effective Counterargument, A Readable Plan
- o Peer-review workshops
- o Informal oral and written responses to invention materials and drafts