Questions to get you started on Informal Group Assignment #1

Tuesday, Jan 27, 2015 – 30 min each

**Group 1 – Who is Mike Rose & what are his credentials for writing this book?**
Education? Background? What do you know about him?

**Group 2 – What else has Mike Rose written?**
What has he written in addition to *The Mind At Work?* What are those books about? Who published this work? Who is the publisher and what do you know about the presses?

Thursday, Jan 29, 2015 – 30 min each

**Group 3 – How has *The Mind At Work* been received?**
What have reviewers said? Who are the reviewers? What is *their* credibility? Speculate about why Dr. Marty chose this book for ENGL 1000. What is the impact of the book?

**Group 4 – What kind of book is *The Mind at Work?***
What genre of book is this? Where would you find it shelved, say, in Barnes & Noble? What are the choices for assigning it a genre? Do they fit or would another be better? Why does genre matter? Is this an “academic” book? How do you know?

Reminders for this informal group assignment

1. You are not being asked for your opinion about the book or the author. Report objectively on what you learn.

2. Questions above are meant to get you started; they are not inclusive. Add whatever you think appropriate—except for personal opinion.

3. Some answers to the questions above may overlap between groups; if they do, don’t obsess over it—just go ahead and address them.

4. *If your group is fortunate enough to get a copy of the book before your presentation,* you may consider the tone, diction, chapter titles, chapter organization, graphics (incl. type size and fonts), vocabulary, sentence structure, “Praise for” section, dedication section, and any other aspect of the book in your analysis/presentation. If you don’t have the book, you won’t be penalized.

5. Power Point (laptop provided) or Prezi use encouraged; short video segments may be included if available and appropriate.

6. Be prepared to discuss: (1) the process your group used for its research and (2) your perceptions of your group’s effectiveness.

7. Grading for this informal assignment? It’s part of the 25% of class participation, based on daily and overall contributions to our community.

Learning Outcomes addressed by this assignment:

All six:

1. rhetorical knowledge
2. critical thinking, reading, & writing
3. processes
4. conventions
5. technology
6. transferability to other courses