For Today’s In-class Reflective Assignment

Please write an informal essay (i.e., not revised and not formally graded) in which you reflect on what you learned in this class this semester. As prompts for your thinking, you were given this sheet last Thursday to remind you of what the learning outcomes are. (1) Please describe, in any manner of organization you wish, how and to what degree you have learned these outcomes. (2) Also reflect on how you already have—or will—apply these outcomes to other classes at MU, whether WI or not. (3) Last, reflect on the habit(s) of mind that you believe you made progress on—and how you might continue to work on these next year.

Your “grade” on this assignment factors into your overall 25% course participation grade. You may write your essay on a computer and email to me when you are finished: TownsendM@missouri.edu

MU’s Writing Requirement

ENGL 1000 is the first in a three-part requirement that you will complete to graduate. In all, you will take:

- English 1000: Exposition & Argumentation
- One Writing Intensive (WI) course at the 1000- or 2000-level anywhere in the MU curriculum
- One WI course at the 3000- or 4000-level in your major; some departments may allow you to write an Honors thesis in lieu of the 3000- or 4000-level WI course

Learning Outcomes for ENGL 1000 (in brief) - by the end of the semester you should:

1. be able to analyze purpose and audience in your own and others’ texts and shape your own texts accordingly (#1, Rhetorical Knowledge)
2. be able to read academic texts critically and to provide detailed analysis of a topic (#2, Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing)
3. understand and be able to use essential steps in the writing process: invention, research, drafting, peer review, revising, and editing (#3, Processes)
4. be able to document sources properly and use “correct” language in your texts (#4, Conventions)
5. be able to use current technologies to research and produce your texts (#5, Technology)
6. be prepared to transfer this knowledge to other MU courses that you take, both WI and non-WI

Habits of Mind (from Frameworks for Success in Postsecondary Writing)

Habits of mind refer to ways of approaching learning that are both intellectual and practical and that will support students’ success in a variety of fields and disciplines. The Framework identifies eight habits of mind essential for success in college writing:

- Curiosity – the desire to know more about the world.
- Openness – the willingness to consider new ways of being and thinking in the world.
- Engagement – a sense of investment and involvement in learning.
- Creativity – the ability to use novel approaches for generating, investigating, and representing ideas.
- Persistence – the ability to sustain interest in and attention to short- and long-term projects.
- Responsibility – the ability to take ownership of one’s actions and understand the consequences of those actions for oneself and others.
- Flexibility – the ability to adapt to situations, expectations, or demands.
- Metacognition – the ability to reflect on one’s own thinking as well as on the individual and cultural processes used to structure knowledge.