**Research Paper for Creative Writing**

I want you to be prepared to do college level inquiry and the research that is often involved. This paper asks you to pick a question that you truly want answered and do the kind of research that will help you answer it.

You must pick a question about writing, a particular writer, a form of writing, an author, a school of criticism, the way a text is perceived by readers, etc. Your options are very vast. Basically, if it involves writing, reading, an author, or a critic, it is totally acceptable.

Here are some ideas:

What is the importance of the first line of a novel? How does it capture the essence of the whole work?

In picture books, do children take away more meaning from the text or the pictures?

How does a parent’s choice of books effect a child’s identity?

Why do some books translate well to screenplays while others do not?

Is there a perfect age to meet a certain text? What factors shape that?

What do reading choices say about the reader? This would have to be significantly narrowed!

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Start with a question, not with a topic.

Use research as an integral part of your thesis development and argument.

Don’ t string together other people¹s words and opinions. Remember that your voice must be prominent throughout this paper; it is your ideas that drive this paper, not those of someone else.

Organize your material, reflect about it and synthesize it, draft your paper, polish it and correctly document it.

HOW MUCH DO WE READ AND RESEARCH?

You must use at least three sources.

List of research materials:

- A periodical (magazine or journal) article or feature piece

- National Public Radio or other broadcast interview or feature segment

- newspaper articles and interviews

- published pamphlets

- one of the CLCs (Books of Literary Criticism‹if investigating literature)

- Institutional and Organizational Web Sites\*

- online periodicals\*

- documentary or narrative films

- academic and professional lectures and presentations/talks

- surveys

- pieces of literature or non-fiction

\*Only one of your non-book sources may be an internet source.

One of your three sources may be your own original action research. This action

source may be:

- An interview you design and conduct

- An experience you undergo and document with journal entries

- A survey you design and conduct

- A comprehensive observation or observations you make and document with notes

Grading.

1.~ ~~ The overall quality of your thinking: your thesis, your argument, your use of evidence

2.~ ~~ The scope and ambition of your project, the amount and kind of research done and the depth of thought about the research.

These additional ones are for seniors:

3.~ ~~ The evolution of your paper form outline to first draft to final draft.

4.~ ~~ Your own perspective and voice, your personal connection and angle.

5.~ ~~ Your attention to each deadline involved in this process.‹ paper topic, design, preliminary writing, and the two drafts. Each stage will be graded pass or fail and a failure on any stage will affect your homework grade and the final grade on this paper.

This means handing in every assignment at the beginning of class on the day it is due.

6.~~ The mechanics of your paper for seniors:

·~ ~ ~ Sentence and punctuation errors eliminated

·~ ~ ~ Our editing suggestions taken into consideration

·~ ~ ~ Documentation and citation is correct

·~ ~ ~ Project includes title page, page numbering, bibliography

Seniors: WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MISTAKES?

The most common mistakes are writing papers that:

-are too stale (usually because the author already has the answer to their question)

-are driven by an idea that is too obvious, too self-evident (that no one would argue with!)

-are too personal

-use quotations for the sake of getting them in there or to establish a detail. Instead, use

excerpts and quotation ~to defend an argument point or provide the forum for analysis.