**Creating a Collection of Personal Writings English 112**

*One of the most valuable skills fostered in 112 English is self-reflection. This activity asks you to engage in your own personal writing and creative expression to explore the ideas of place and regional identity. It will allow you the opportunity to record and clarify your ideas and observations, and to develop your own thoughts and perceptions on places of importance to you.*

*You will compile this collection as we are reading short fiction and non-fiction that center on regional identity, community, and tradition. All readings take place in rural areas that share many qualities with Miramichi. The hope is that you will make connections between the readings and your own upbringing in Miramichi and the surrounding areas.*

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| **Assignment Requirements** |
| 1. Complete two assignments from column **1**. These are homework assignments and must be completed on your own time. They will be marked according to a rubric appropriate for the writing genre.
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| 1. Personal essay – 500 words in length. This will be completed when we have finished our reading unit. Mini-lessons and mentor texts will be used to guide you through the completion of this assignment.
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| **1** | **Choose one topic then… Choose one genre = your assignment**1. Narrative/Story (500 words)
2. Dramatic Monologue (250 words + presented to class)
3. Poem (25 lines minimum)
4. Personal Letter (500 words)
5. Newspaper/Magazine Article (one page in proper formatting)
6. Create a mixed media piece based on your topic. See *Echoes*, p. 307 for an example.
7. Create a montage of images and video that would tell the viewer the impact of your topic on your life. Your montage could also include narration and music.
8. Eulogy or Tribute – this does not have to be a person; for example, it could be some**thing** in the community that has died, like a particular custom or way of life. (500 words)
9. Place (specific or general)
10. Community
11. Tradition
12. Obligation
13. Defining moment

**\*You must complete two of the above assignments.** |
| **2** | **Personal Essay** – your personal essay is a culminating assignment for this unit and will focus on the topic of regional identity. We will spend time in class working on this piece, with mini-lessons, mentor texts, and conferencing. |

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| **Assignment** | **Date Due** |
| Choice A | **Wednesday, October 5th, 2016** |
| Choice B | **Friday, October 21st, 2016** |
| Personal Essay | **To be determined**  |

***All written assignments are to be typed or written in blue or black ink. Please use the MLA formatting guidelines discussed in class.***

**Personal Essay – English 112**

For this mini-unit, you will be required to write a personal essay based on **one** of the following topics:

1. Choose a defining moment from your life and write about how it has impacted you.
2. How would you describe your regional identity? Describe the importance of your community to who you are as a person.
3. Generational connections – write about the connections (or lack thereof) that you have with your parents and/or grandparents. How do these connections (or lack of connections) shape you as a person?
4. Obligation vs. Following Dreams – write about the sense of obligation that you feel toward your family or community. How does this affect your ability to meet your individual goals?
5. Many of the narrators in our short story unit are struggling to find their true selves. Write about how you have struggled (or are still struggling) to find your true self.

**Tips:**

1. Your essay should be three pages, typed 12 point font, and double-spaced in length.
2. Use MLA formatting.
3. Remember to use your voice.
4. Use I!
5. Find moments to use descriptive and figurative language.
6. Leads – start with a quote, dialogue, description of setting, or a small story that relates.
7. Conclusion – leave your reader thinking at the end.
8. Challenge yourself to sway from the five paragraph essay structure. Be creative!

**Create a prewriting organizer below!**