Name_____

ENG 1103_____

Date_____

ENG 1103
Midterm Reflection

As the first step in your writing process, you will complete a **sideshadowing** exercise.

OVERVIEW

Sideshadowing is a form of self-reflection performed by commenting on your own work in the margins of the document. In preparation for your midterm reflection essay, you'll read through your writing, paying close attention to conflicts and possibilities of each moment in the analysis. Then, you'll write back to yourself in the margins of your paper, developing untold or under-told ideas, and considering the questions and reservations you have as you read. Once you complete your comments, you'll write a short response at the end that provides an overview of what you discovered about your analysis through your sideshadowing.

The idea is to create a thick marginal text that extends or raises questions about what your analysis is saying. This text in the margins should help you generate material for your midterm reflection essay--and possibly new material for your work later in the semester--but it should also illustrate a clear reflection on your methods, thoughts, and hesitations as you wrote. Through sideshadowing your work, you learn to switch the lens through which you read and evaluate your own writing.

PART ONE: MARGINAL COMMENTS

1.   Read through the first paragraph, considering the following questions, and write back to yourself in the margins of your paper:

- What questions or hesitations did you have as you wrote?
- What were you thinking or feeling as you wrote?
- What is the most interesting idea for you here? Or, what idea here would you like to explore?
- What lines or phrases don't seem relevant? Why?

2. Move to the next paragraph, answering the above questions in the margins of your paper. Continue this process through each paragraph until you reach the end of the draft.

PART TWO: SUMMARY

3. After you have written back to yourself in the margins of each paragraph, read over all you have written. What does this new material tell you about your writing?

4. Write a one- or two-paragraph response at the end of the paper that expresses what your sideshadowing means as a whole: What does it tell you about your writing and learning so far in the course? Synthesize your sideshadowing comments by noticing significant patterns and themes, and reflect on how this new information will enable you to proceed as you continue to develop your writing skills. You want to think about not just what you discovered through sideshadowing your paper, but **WHY** it happened—think back to the experience of writing the paper and draw from that memory to think about what was going on while you were writing.

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANNING AND DRAFTING

1. Plan and draft a midterm reflection essay that documents your work in the first weeks of the semester, focusing on what you consider your most significant work and the feature or features of the course that have benefited your development as a writer, a reader, and/or a critical thinker. Features to consider include the following:

   - Planning, drafting, and revising your analysis
   - Keeping a journal
   - Completing *Check, Please!* assignments
   - Studying one of the readings examined class, including "Blogs vs. Term Papers," "Skim Reading is the New Normal," the first paragraphs of "The Falling Man," "Facebook Knows Instagram is Toxic for Teen Girls, Company Documents Show," and the sample analyses
   - Writing for an online audience beyond the classroom/creating and maintaining a WordPress blog
   - Collaborating with your classmates on in-class writing assignments
   - Collaborating with your teammates on Wordplay Day
   - Writing longhand
   - Limiting screen time

   You are welcome to focus on more than one feature but no more than four.

2. Include in your reflective essay the following elements:

   - An opening paragraph that introduces your focus and presents your thesis
   - Body paragraphs that offer concrete details from your work to support your thesis
   - Quotations or paraphrases from two relevant and credible sources, introduced with signal phrases and followed by parenthetical citations where needed. One of the two sources may be your analysis. Recommended sources include in-class readings, *Check, Please!* Assignments, and *Writing Analytically.*
   - A conclusion that reiterates the thesis without restating it verbatim
   - A minimum of 750 words

3. Write in dark ink, preferably black. You are welcome to use both sides of the page.

4. Submit your draft before you leave class today. I will return your work with notes next week.

DIRECTIONS FOR FORMATTING AND POSTING YOUR REVISION—See the Course Calendar for Due Dates

1. Save your revised essay as a Microsoft Word file and submit it to Blackboard in compliance with the manuscript guidelines. (See the bottom of this page for information on MLA Style.)

2. Publish your revision as a blog post. In your post, omit the first-page information included in your file submitted to Blackboard (your name, course, section, instructor's name, and date). Add to your blog post an image that documents some part of your writing process away from the screen, such as a photo of your reading notes or a page of your draft.

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GRADE CRITERIA

An **A** midterm reflection complies with all assignment guidelines, demonstrates a depth of understanding by using relevant and accurate detail, and is also well organized and relatively free of surface errors.

A **B** midterm reflection complies with all assignment guidelines and presents an adequate reflection that is well organized and relatively free of surface errors.

A **C** midterm reflection complies with most but not all assignment guidelines and may also be flawed by issues of organization and/or surface errors.

A **D** midterm reflection complies with only a few of the assignment guidelines and may also be flawed by issues of organization and/or surface errors.

An **F** midterm reflection fails to comply with most or all assignment guidelines and may also be flawed by substantial issues of organization and/or surface errors.

MLA Style

Look to my sample analysis assignments posted on Blackboard and linked to my blog as models of MLA style. For more information on MLA style, see the MLA Style Center and OWL sites linked to my blog.