**Paper Guidelines for Kim Jones and Kevin List Pappers**

**Paper One: Crots:** Your Identit(y/ies)

Throughout the semester, we will consider the idea of identity, as well as multiple identities. In *Black, White, and Jewish*, Rebecca Walker examines her personal history and background and shows how her past shapes her sense of identity, including racial, religious, sexual, and political identity. Now it's your turn. Consider one (or more!) of the above aspects of identity (or you can choose another area of identity, as long as you discuss it with me first) and trace via personal reflection how your past has formed your understanding of that identity.

For this paper, you will be writing in a particular style: in crots. The idea of writing in crots is probably new to you, and probably a little scary, too. That's okay–that's normal, and part of the process. By the end, chances are you'll love writing in crots, and will wish you could write all your papers this way. A crot is a flash – a segment – a chunk – a fragment. It’s any and all of these things. Crots don’t use transitions; they create a cohesive story through subtle, creative themes. I want this paper to be life flashes – significant experiences in your life that make you who you are. The essay will function as a mosaic–a bunch of crots cobbled together to construct a whole vision of who you are. These reflections can be from childhood, adolescence (aren’t we glad we’re done with adolescence?), your high school careers, first impressions of college and people whom you’ve met or would like to meet, visions of your future. They can be fictional–they can be real. And when I say they can be fictional, I mean they can be a composite sketch of someone or something. They can be false – only their essence has to be true.

In high school, you wrote five paragraph essays about nonsense. Now, I'm asking you to write a nonsensically structured paper about something important.. In a sense, this is your biography–a portrait of your past, your present, your sense of individuality AND your sense of belonging in the wider world.

Here’s how we’ll work it. Together and apart, we will write short scenes. They could be as long as 500 words or as short as 100 (or 50 or 10 for that matter). It doesn’t matter. You’ll need enough crots to fill 5 pages, the minimum for this paper. Think of each crot as its own mini-story. When you jump to a new crot, you jump to a new story. a new memory, a new time, a new place. We wills sketch people, places, things, and ourselves–whatever has helped to form our identity–using vivid detail.

What can a "crot" be? Almost anything. Write with fragments. Use slang if you want. Write poetry. Write a short short story. Write a song. Write an exposition. Imitate a style. Write in Spanish. Parody something. Run-ons? Sentence fragments? Great! Adopt different voices. Pretend you’re someone else, writing about you from the outside. Switch from first-person to second-person to third-person. However, don’t get lazy. This is more work than a regular essay. Often, when first assigned a crots paper, students make the mistake of thinking it's a paper with no structure. This is not true. Instead, it's a paper where you have a great deal of freedom to building your OWN structure. This means you have unlimited space for creativity. It also means you have to do a lot of groundwork that you're not used to doing, writing within the confines of the five-paragraph essay.

When your scenes are completed, we’ll discover a common thread among them and arrange them to form a narrative. Can it be chronological? Of course. Can it be non-chronological? Of course.

Next comes the purpose. In other words, what will this paper actually do for you? It is my aim to show you that creativity and writing in college can go together. It is my aim to show you that a worthwhile and interesting piece of writing does not need to have a concrete beginning, middle, and end—all writing is not a 5 paragraph sandwich–there are more subtle, nuanced, and EFFECTIVE approaches to organization and cohesion. My aim is to show you that using vivid detail enhances your writing immeasurably. My aim is for you to realize something important about yourself and your writing, as well as how multiple communities work together to help make you exactly who you are. My aim is for you to realize that, no matter what you were told in high school, the five-paragraph essay is not the be-all and end-all of writing. My aim is for you to actually enjoy this.

**Length: 5-7 pagesPaper Guidelines for Alex Bergida Paper**

**Paper Two – The Feature Article** 8-10 pages

Continuing with the theme of rhetorical awareness, this paper will explore a new genre: writing a feature article. The previous paper—Crots—created room for more creative, personal writing; this paper will help transition you towards the type of writing that will be expected of you in 1102 classes next semester. The paper will gear you towards more formal academic writing which is consciously directed toward a specific audience.

You can choose either a magazine or periodical currently in publication, ana- lyze its content, style, structure, and audience and write your own article mim- icking your findings. (these can be either pop culture magazines—i.e. Time, Newsweek, ESPN, Cosmopolitan, Rolling Stone—or publications specific to your particular fields of interests—i.e. science, math, sociology, psychology, music). It might also behoove you to engage in some research in order to pro- duce a factual article and acquire a credible ethos.

In writing this article, you will focus on developing your writing skills in four areas: first, audience awareness (the magazine you're writing for), the use of rhetoric and forming a cohesive, persuasive argument (including a clear the- sis), the incorporation of research, including effective use of quotes into your own writing, and your ability to incorporate multiple, conflicting viewpoints into your paper while still articulating your own perspective. Your grade on the paper will be largely determined by these four factors. They may seem confusing now, but don't worry - we'll figure out what they mean together.