English 1A Spring 2017

**Your Writing History**

**Overview:** At the end of the semester you will be writing a reflection of how you have improved as a writer. To do that, you will need a record of where your skills were at the beginning of the semester (now). This essay will also give me, your instructor, a sense of you as a writer and a student.

**Procedure**:

* Choose and reread at least **one piece of writing** that you have done within the past year. Consider what it says about your strengths and weaknesses as a writer.
* Draft an essay about how you feel about yourself as a writer. Consider all the writing you do, but focus on what you write in school. The essay should discuss both your **skills** (strengths and weaknesses) and your **attitudes** about writing and maybe how they have changed over your academic career.
* Illustrate your claims with details from the specific piece of writing you reread for this project and what you remember about the process of writing it. You may draw upon other past writing experiences, as well, though.
* Conclude by speculating about this writing class (Engl 1A) and what you hope to gain from it. Be honest (but diplomatic).
* The pre-writing stages and early draft might be messy, but the final draft should be a complete, well organized essay with an introduction, separate paragraphs, and a conclusion. Do your best with grammar so I’ll know how much grammar I’ll have to go over this semester.

**Specifications:**

* **Format:** Head your paper with your name, your instructor’s name, the course and section number, and the date (MLA style). Double-space your text and add your word count at the end in parentheses.
* **Length:** 600-800 words (no fluff!)
* **Title:** Begin with an effective title, not just “Writing History.”
* **Canvas and hard copy:** When you are finished drafting, revising, and editing, upload your essay to Canvas AND print it out. Bring the hard copy to class.

**Criteria for Grading:** Your paper will be judged on the following:

* how well it meets the requirements of the assignment
* how well its ideas are developed with specifics
* depth of thinking
* organization
* voice (does it sound generic or have personality?)
* control of language, style, mechanics