Final Examination

CRTW 201

Dr. Fike

Directions: The exam is to be written in a bluebook in class; do not fill out your bluebook at home. Use blue or black ink (ballpoint, not felt tip or any other kind of point). Write only on one side of each page in your **large bluebook (8.5 x 11", available at the bookstore: you may want to have 2 with you)**. Leave one-inch left and right margins. Do not write below the last line on each page. It is very okay to use books and notes, including a dictionary. Chinese students may use their electronic dictionaries; however, no other electronic devices are allowed. **Bring a copy of this document and your "toolbox" to the exam**. Copies of this exam will not be distributed. Do not hand this exam paper in with your bluebook. Do not number your paragraphs. Do please label your essay’s sections (see below). Note: Your grade will be based largely on content and development but partly on lower-order correctness. The exam is worth 10 points. Note: This is an exam. I will not coach you, and you should not seek help at the Writing Center.

Prompt: Our course has so far emphasized critical thinking in an academic setting, as well it should. As a recent in-class exercise demonstrated, CRTW provides a "toolbox" that you can use in your other courses. The purpose of the final examination is to show you that this toolbox can help you in your non-academic life as well. So: Write an essay in which you do the following things:

* Introduction: Underline your **thesis** statement. (It should take a stand by expressing a controversial idea. Show me that you know the difference between stating an intention to analyze a focused topic and giving a thesis that states what you will ARGUE FOR in the essay. The thesis should have an evaluative edge.)
* Analysis: Use the **10 elements** of critical thinking to analyze a problem, issue, or decision in your own life. Past, present, or future--you choose the time frame. Underline each element the first time you use it in this section.
* Evaluation: Use some of the **standards** of critical thinking to evaluate your thinking. For example, how can the standards help you understand why the problem, issue, or decision is so difficult? Underline each standard the first time you use it in this section.
* Conclusion: Use some of the **traits** to discuss the qualities of mind that handling the problem, issue, or decision requires and develops. Underline each trait the first time you use it.
* Quote and discuss something from **Nosich's book** somewhere in your answer and be sure to use at least one **SEE-I**. Mark your SEE-I clearly.
* You do not need a list of works cited.

The essay you should write is not a classical argument. It simply corresponds to the bullet points. Please use the following section headings: Introduction, Analysis, Evaluation, Conclusion; or thesis, elements, standards, traits. Skip a line between sections please. You do not need to write more than one side of each page in your large bluebook: it should be equivalent in length to a 5-page word-processed essay. Show me that you can use at least the elements, standards, and traits, plus the SEE-I. Bottom line: Show me that you can apply your toolbox to things besides academics.