ENG253
Week #4: Weekly Reading and Writing


Thursday: “Cultural Portfolio: Slavery, Freedom, and Identity,” page 327 – 8, Mary Rowlandson, p 121 - 151

Write in response to two of the following (please choose two different topics/authors to write about), each response about a half page single-spaced.

1. Explain to an audience that is unfamiliar the history of the Witchcraft Trials (summarize pages 107 – 116). Feel free to do some background research (and if you do please evaluate and document your sources).
2. Explain the antimonian controversy in Puritan New England. This controversy represents a broad controversy in American literature and culture. Do you think this same type of conflict and debate continues today? In what specific ways? As you answer, draw specific details from our text.
3. Imagine yourself a member of Anne Hutchinson’s “private conferences.” Write a narrative of your own emotional and intellectual growth as a result of her teachings, as you – a devout Puritan man or woman – have come to understand them.
4. Do some research on the Atlantic Slave Trade. Explain this trade, which began in the early 1500s from whichever angle you choose.
5. As you read Mary Rowlandson’s narrative, be sensitive for signals of not only her spiritual transformation but her emotional and physical transformation as well. The woman who closes the narrative on page 151 is not the same woman we meet in the beginning. Describe how you recognize these transformations by using specific details from the narrative.
6. Here’s another way to ask the last question (#4): Although Rowlandson’s narrative is a text clearly in line with the Puritan literary tradition, every once in a while she breaks through this structure and tradition and offers us a glimpse of “a woman realizing her power.” In what specific ways do you see this happening?
7. Take any one of the scenes in Rowlandson’s narrative and rewrite it from the Native American’s perspective.

Guidelines
• Word-process
• Write one (and only one) full page single-spaced
• Include a heading in the upper left-hand corner
  Your name
  The date
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