WR121
Reading Response Writing #2

Please choose any one of the following essays for your reading response (also consider writing a summary about one essay, but an analysis of another, and a personal connection to yet a third):

- “Neat People vs. Sloppy People”
- “Batting Clean-up and Striking Out”
- “Remembering My Childhood on the Continent of Africa”
- “Grant and Lee”
- “Everyday Use”

SUMMARY (10 points): Please write one paragraph of the main ideas in this essay. Review summary skills in Bedford, pages 18-19 and pages 52 & 53. Kennedy defines summary this way: “You take the essence of the author’s meaning, without the supporting evidence and other details that make that gist convincing or interesting” (18). Remember both your audience (they have not read the essay) and your purpose (to condense the main ideas); a summary does not ask for your opinions or ideas on the subject.

ANALYSIS (10 points): Write one paragraph analysis. Understand the power of analysis. As Kennedy writes, “Analysis is a key skill in learning and in life. It is an instrument allowing you to slice a large and complicated subject into smaller parts that you can grasp and relate to one another. And when it works, you find in the parts an idea or conclusion about the subject that makes it clearer, truer, more comprehensive, or more vivid than before you started” (312). In an analysis, you divide your subject into its elements, but first you must decide on your “principle of analysis.” For instance, you might write an analysis of the “specific and concrete language” in David Sedaris’ essay “Remembering My Childhood.” You could develop this paragraph by providing evidence (specific examples from the essay) to illustrate the specific and concrete language. This principle of analysis and development by evidence would support the main point you’d like to make about your subject. Plan to state this main point in your topic sentence, for example: "In ‘Remembering My Childhood,’ David Sedaris uses highly descriptive language.”

PERSONAL CONNECTION (5 points): Write one paragraph that describes your personal connection to this reading (what the reading made you feel or think or remember, what you’d like to tell the writer, how you think this reading relates to people today).

At the top of your word processed Reading Response, please include:

- Your name
- Date
- Reading Response #2: and essay title