

Assignment - Writing Toolbox

Final Due: December 8th – 11th prior to final conference

Three topic ideas due: November 11th in class

Purpose:

1. For you to reflect upon what you know and what you've learned about writing
2. For you to understand all the different dimensions of writing
3. To increase your appreciation of the writing of others

What:

- Summaries of five things you know creates impactful writing
- These are things that are important to remember when starting or revising a writing project
- Give your descriptions of each tool a title in the form of a simple statement that's easy for you to remember. (e.g. "Show don't tell.")
- Each description should include a paragraph about how the lesson or principle you are highlighting works and why. This paragraph should include both why this is important to good writing and an assessment of your own writing relative to this skill. This description paragraph should be 6 to 8 sentences long.
- Each description must include two examples, one from your own writing AND one from someone's else's writing. Authors we've read for this class are possibilities, but you can use authors you've read on your own, including J.K. Rowling, or the work of other students. Each example should include a paragraph explaining how the excerpted text relates to the principle. For your own writing, you can use an excerpt as a negative example and discuss how you plan to revise the text.

Example:

Poems need a centerline

This is the idea that poems need something to unify them. This can be an idea but is more often an image or object that has the greatest symbolic meaning and helps focus the reader's thoughts. This is important because it directs the reader's attention and gives them something concrete to remember that goes beyond an abstract explanation. In my own writing I'm still working on identifying what this kind of object or image might be. I see symbolic potential in everything and so sometimes picking one thing is hard.

A good example of the centerline is the boat in Joy Harjo's poem "Ah, Ah." In this poem the boat represents the soul....

An example from my own writing would be....

Where do I start?

Think about the principles and ideas about writing that have come to you over the course of the semester:

- in class discussions, workshops, and exercises
- in my feedback of your written work
- in feedback you received from other students during your workshop
- in the stories and poems we've read

Use the right column in the Writer's Toolbox note sheet to write down ideas.

Rubric – (50 Summative Points)

Each tool is worth ten points in the summative realm – 2 points for each of the following

1. Is it long enough?
2. Is the skill or discovery or lesson true?
3. Do you discuss why it is important?
4. Do you discuss where you are in your own writing with this skill?
5. Have you included two examples and explained what each example shows?

After the first five tools, each additional tool will be worth a total of ten additional points. Tool entries that fail to meet minimum standards will not receive any points.

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