**Writer’s Notebook ENGL 102H 125 pts. total | 25%**

This notebook will contain your daily, informal writing practice and thinking; it’s a place to write-to-learn course content, pose questions, brainstorm, log notes and ideas, etc. At mid-term and at the end of the course, you’ll prepare and reflect on your notebook—those checks are when your notebook practice will be evaluated and awarded points toward your final course grade.

**Daily Practice**

**a) *Get a notebook*—**

* Get a flat non-spiral composition book OR if you’d rather mostly type, start a digital journal in the format/platform of your choosing—a Word doc; a Google doc.
  + If you anticipate wanting to do both, you can a physical notebook, and when you type, print it out and paste or tape it into your notebook. Or you can scan or photograph handwritten entries and copy them in your digi WN.
* Whatever the format, this notebook should be devoted *only* to this class.

**b) *Write in the Notebook*—**

* You’ll use this notebook steadily. Always bring it with you to class. *Don’t lose it!* 
  + If you forget your notebook one day, you can use scrap paper for any writing activities and tape/paste/scan into your notebook later.
* **You’ll use the notebook for daily in-class responses, notes, prompted freewrites, activities etc., as well as for “homework” prompts (posted on the Schedule) about assigned readings.**
* I expect that you’ll do basically all of the prompted in-class and homework prompts. A couple misses are OK.
* Additionally, you should some self-sponsored writing in this notebook of your own choosing—for example, notes during a short lecture, freewriting or outlining before a draft, quotes from a reading, a note from whole-class discussion, etc.
* This notebook is yours. Feel free to doodle in it, draw in it, ask questions, be expressive and informal. This notebook, however, is not private. I’ll evaluate it (so will you) once at midterm and once at the end of term.
* For your reference and mine, **clearly title and date all entries in the notebook. And include a short meaningful title**—this will help organize your notebook. **Leave space in between entries.**
* I won’t check on your notebook daily. It’s your responsibility to keep up with your notebook practice.

**Midterm and Final Checks 65 & 60 pts. possible**

The evaluative checks of your notebook emphasize reflection and synthesis of what you’ve learned. Here’s what to do for the midterm check:

1. **Encounter:** Read through your notebook. Ensure that entries are titled and dated (refer back to the HW prompts listed in the course schedule if needed). More importantly, as you read through your notebook, interact with your own writing and thinking using *annotation*. You can write in the margins (use a different color pen/pencil) and/or use sticky-notes. Your annotations might:

“But our notebooks give us away, for however dutifully we record what we see around us, the common denominator of all we see is always, transparently, shamelessly, the implacable ‘I.’”

–*Joan Didion, “On Keeping a Notebook”*

**Purpose:**

* Practice informal writing as a mode of reading, learning, and thinking
* Enact writing and learning as *inquiry*
* Practice sentence-level style

**Writer’s Notebook ENGL 102H (*cont*.)**

* identify specific insights and explain why you value them
* highlight an idea and disagree with yourself or extend/update your thinking
* identify a section or entry where you see your response as particularly strong and explain why
* note something about the strength of your writing—style, word choice, etc.
* pose questions to yourself
* critique a response—explain why it was lacking and what you’d do differently if you did it again

This list is not exhaustive. Overall, I’m looking for thoughtful reflection on your writing in the notebook. Do at least 5 substantive annotations (where you’re writing responses) plus smaller marks (underlining, question marks, short phrases). More than counting, demonstrate clearly that you’ve carefully thought about your thinking and writing. Consider using sticky notes if your notebook is hardcopy and Comments if digital

1. **Reflect:** Next, write a new reflective entry. Describe your overall response to reencountering your entries: what have you learned about course content, and about your own writing and thinking? For the midterm check, conclude by setting a concrete goal for your writing in the notebook in the second half of the term. 1-2 pages seems sufficient; you can handwrite or type.

After the final check, you’ll feature some of your work in the notebook in your Writer’s Portfolio.

EVALUATION

Evaluation will focus on ***completion/effort*** and ***engagement***: Has the writer done most all of the writing requested and some self-directed writing? Has the writer been thorough and thoughtful in the entries and in the reflection and annotation? Has the writer demonstrated they’ve read and considered assigned readings? Have they thoughtfully selected meaningful quotations that encapsulates some part of their learning?

We’ll use the following scale to assign points:

* **Terrific!—**responding thoroughly to almost every one of the prompted daily in-class and HW prompts + regular self-sponsored writing
* **Has Potential—**missing some prompted entries and/or doing only short hurried entries, minimal self-sponsored writing
* **Uh Oh!—**missing several prompted entries, entries are short, minimal or no self-sponsored writing

*“[T]here are still good reasons for writers to keep commonplace books the old-fashioned way. In copying by hand a masterful construction from another writer, we can inhabit the words, grasp their rhythms and, with some luck, learn a little something about how good writing is made.”*

*—*[*Danny Heitman*](http://topics.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443294904578048532124486490.html)

