Comp I Essay Guidelines

1. All essays must be typed using size 12 pt. font ONLY. The font should be very simple like this, Times Roman. Do not use script or italics, and do not use all caps or bold. Use plain text only.

2. Format essays with 1” margins at the top and bottom and 1.25” on both sides. These are Word’s default margins, so if you use Word to type your essays, the margins should be correct. Do not right justify your essays. Do not place extra blank lines between paragraphs. Indent the first line of each paragraph by one “Tab” keystroke (usually ½” or five spaces).

3. **Heading:** Do not use the "Header" function in your word processing program. Instead, on the first line of the first page, type the following (single spaced) in the upper left corner:

   Your Name
   ENGL 1013, Hour class meets (Example: ENGL 1013, 9:15)
   Reflection Essay (change this with each essay)
   Due date of essay

4. **Title:** Two lines down from the heading, enter your essay title, and CENTER it.

5. **Body:** Two lines down from the title, begin the first line of your essay. **Your essay should be double-spaced beginning here.** Double space all of the essay except the heading and the title (see numbers 3 and 4 above). Your essays must be double spaced. NON-COMPLIANCE WILL RESULT IN MY LOWERING THE GRADE YOU EARN BY TEN POINTS.

   **SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.**

6. **Number all pages** except the first either in the center bottom or in the upper right corner of the page. If you can’t get your word processing program to put page numbers on your essay, then write the numbers in by hand.

7. With your portfolio open in front of you, place the final draft of your essay in the right pocket, and place rough drafts, resource materials, and other related or requested papers into the left pocket. **Do not staple your final draft.**

8. With your portfolio closed in front of you, write on the front in the **upper right corner**:
   Your Name
   ENGL 1013, Hour your class meets
   If your portfolio is dark, place a white label in the upper right corner, and write on the label.

9. **Each essay must have a heading and a title.** Essays that include quotations from outside sources must give correct and accurate attribution of those sources along with in-text citation. Each source used must be submitted in print with the final draft (unless the source is in our regular textbooks). We will use MLA documentation guidelines. Essays in which outside sources are used must also include a Work Cited (or Works Cited) page in correct MLA format.
Maggie, the Surprising Daughter in "Everyday Use"

The surprise about life for someone like Dee in Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" is that not everyone thinks like she does. While growing up, Dee resented her impoverished life with her mother and sister and wanted to get away from it as soon as possible, which she did. Now, in the time of the story, Dee has learned of her African heritage and sees her old life as quaint, as something she can display on a wall or capture in a Polaroid picture. Loudly colorful Dee (Wangero) grabs our attention, but it is her little sister Maggie who is the more mysterious and, ultimately, the more substantial of the two. Maggie’s directed comments, quiet demeanor, and confidence in her place in her life reveal that she is more in tune with her true heritage than Dee can ever be and is the most interesting character in the story as a result.

At first, "Everyday Use" seems to be all about Dee, the flamboyant, worldly, bright daughter. She has overcome her childhood poverty and has become successful at college. In addition, the other three characters in the story are largely concerned with who Dee is and what she does. When Dee was still living at home, Mama put a great deal of effort into making sure that Dee got good clothes, a good education, and a good life. We learn from Mama that "Dee wanted nice things. A yellow organdy dress [. . .]; black pumps to match a green suit " (par. 12, 218) and that Dee got what she wanted. Maggie, the fire-scarred little sister, seems to look up to Dee, to see her as the ideal that she (Maggie) can never achieve. Mama tells us early in the story that Maggie will eye "her sister with a mixture of envy and awe" (par. 2, 217) when Dee arrives for the