Comp II Essay Guidelines

1. All essays must be typed using a size 12-pt. font. (This is 12 pt.)

2. The font should be simple like this, Times Roman. No script or italics. No all caps or bold. Just plain text, please.

3. Double space the essay beginning with the first line after the title (see number 7 below). Double spacing your essay is crucial. NON-COMPLIANCE WILL RESULT IN MY LOWERING THE GRADE YOU EARN BY TEN POINTS.

4. Use 1” margins for the top and bottom of each page, 1.25” for the sides. (These are the default margins in Microsoft Word.) Indent the first line of each paragraph by one “Tab” keystroke (usually ½” or five spaces). Do not add an extra blank line between paragraphs. Do not right justify your essays.

5. **Heading:** Do not use the Header function! Instead, on the first line of the first page, type the following (single spaced) in the upper left hand corner:

   - Your Name
   - ENGL 1023
   - Name of essay (change with each new essay)
   - Due date of essay

6. Two lines down from the above, enter your essay title, CENTERED.

7. Two lines down from your essay’s title, begin the first line of your essay. **Your essay should be double-spaced beginning here.**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.

8. Number your pages, preferably in the center bottom or in the upper right hand corner. If you can’t get your word processing program to put numbers on your pages, then write them in by hand. You do not need to number the first page.

9. With your portfolio open in front of you, place the final draft of your essay in the right hand pocket, and place other materials into the left-hand pocket.

10. With your portfolio closed in front of you, write your name in the upper right corner. Underneath your name, write ENGL 1023. If your portfolio is dark colored, place a white label in the upper right hand corner and write on the label.

11. All essays must have a title, an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs that support your essay's thesis, and a strong conclusion. All essays must use quotes with correct and accurate in-text citation and must include a Work Cited listing (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