REQUIREMENTS FOR 2nd PAPER—RESEARCH ON AUTHOR—Comp. II

AUDIENCE: Assume the class is your audience, one that is less familiar with your author than you are. (A little background up front would be OK then.)

PURPOSE: To research the writing life of the author you have chosen and write a report on that writing life.

LENGTH: Have at least four-five, FULL, typed, double-spaced pages of text without counting the heading information on the first page. MORE is OK.

****Pre-writing****

--find TWO Primary Sources: ONE in addition to the ONE read in our class text.

--find TWO Secondary Sources: interviews, which let the author talk about his/her reasons for writing or scholarly sources which analyze why the author writes, are best.

--have a minimum of FOUR sources for this assignment and complete documentation information for each source on a Works Cited page. (Each of the four sources should be from a different place so three articles from one magazine would not work.)

--avoid long biographical books; look for short articles instead.

--beware of what you find on the Internet--trust .gov and .edu sites over .biz, .net, and .com. Even .org sites can be trouble. Use EBSCOhost instead.

--take notes on your sources and use those notes to write your draft.

****Drafting****

--Make sure you have a title for your work, other than the author’s name.

--State a clear point/thesis somewhere in the beginning of the essay that makes a comment on or observation about the author’s writing life.

--Use the body of your essay to explain the connection you see between the writer’s life and his/her work. Why does s/he write what s/he writes?

--Use the conclusion to reiterate your thesis (the comment on the author’s writing life.)

--Bring your best possible draft to peer-critiquing and use the critiques to make the paper better. If you miss this activity, go to the Writing Center!!!

****Revising/Publishing****

--Use a standard paper format as in The Little, Brown Brief Handbook. (Standard paper format means one-inch margins all around, 10-12 point font size, regular typing or computer paper, no title page, etc.)

--ALSO, BE SURE TO USE A PROCESS TO WRITE THIS PAPER AND BE READY TO TURN IN THE WHOLE PROCESS: NOTES, CARD REPORT, OUTLINE/PLAN, DRAFTS, PEER-CRITIQUES, FINAL DRAFT. (FOLLOW THE SUGGESTIONS ON THE WRITING PROCESS IN THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF YOUR CLASS TEXT.)

NOTE: If you have any problems along the way, stop by during office hours and see me. Also, be sure to turn the paper in on time. Use e-mail ONLY as a last resort for getting the paper to me on the due date.