**Observation Essay Assignment (15% of Course Grade)**

**Audience:** The class and me. Someone who does not know the person you observed.

**Purpose:** To observe someone doing what you want to do for a living, as close to it as you can get, and write a paper about that person’s job, workplace, activity, etc.

**Length:** 2-3 typed double-spaced pages, MINIMUM, with 1-inch margins all around. Longer is always OK if it is relevant material.

*****Pre-writing*****

- Take lots of notes that describe the setting of your observation, the person you observed and the activity the person was doing when you observed him or her. It is OK to ask the person you observed questions, but don’t turn this paper into an interview transcript.
- Write a narrative that tells the story of your observation in chronological order. (Easiest.)
- Follow the process on the PowerPoint shown in class.
- Use the model essay on my web site as a guide for your own.
- Draft a tentative thesis that states the main point about the person you observed and what you learned from that observation.

*****Drafting*****

- Think of a good hook or lead-in for your readers. Grab the reader’s attention.
- Develop body paragraphs that develop the main point that you learned from the observation but also flow together for the reader.
- Conclude your draft with a sense of the purpose of the assignment and what you are trying to communicate to your reader about the person you observed.
- If you miss the peer-review day, be sure to e-mail another student in class and exchange papers for critiquing OR go to the Writing Center to get feedback. (Remember that CRITIQUING is part of your paper grade, as are your responses to others’ critiques of your essay draft.)

*****Revising, Editing & Proofreading*****

- Revise your essay with the audience (the other members of class and me) in mind.
- RE-read for clarity, paying particular attention to coherence, focus and unity.
- Does the introduction grab the reader? Does it make them want to hear more?
- Is each sentence fully expressed? Is each paragraph fully developed? Are there good transitions between paragraphs?
- Does the conclusion end the narrative in a satisfactory way for the reader???
- Did you go to the Writing Center for help? Remember that the tutors will NOT proofread a final draft, but they will help you with any other stage of the writing process.
- Proofread your final draft backwards, sentence by sentence, aloud and slowly. Take your time here.
- Staple all your work together and label all the parts of the process.

See the Course Calendar for due dates for the rough draft and the final draft. Remember that you must turn in your whole process the day that the final draft is due. If you are absent, e-mail the final draft to me and give me the rest of your process the next time you are on campus.