**PERSONAL ESSAY GUIDELINES DUE: T Oct 9**

750-1200 words; typed; MLA format

Any sources must be cited according to MLA.

Includes either an Implicit or Explicit argument; must use some narrative techniques/structures

Includes a now/then narrator

Mechanics/grammar/usage need not be flawless, but errors rendering the paper incoherent/detracting from/undermining the strengths may lower the grade.

Mature, sophisticated prose is expected (appropriate word choice and variety of syntax)

I will reward you for what you do well.

***If you have not yet decided upon a topic, consider the suggestions below:***

1. We have all had experiences that have changed the directions of our lives. Such experiences may be momentous, such as moving from one part of the country to another or losing a family member or close friend. On the other hand, they may be experiences that did not appear particularly significant at the time but have since proved to be important. Recall such a turning point in your life, and present it so as to give the reader a sense of what your life was like before the event and how it changed afterward.
2. Without getting too sentimental or cute, recreate your childhood perspective of a particular family or community ritual. Your purpose might be to highlight the division between the child's perspective and the adult's, or it might be to illustrate the child's movement toward an adult perspective.
3. Sometimes a significant relationship with someone can help us to mature, easily or painfully. Recount the story of such a relationship in your own life or in the life of someone you know well. If this relationship marked a turning point in your life or if it provided you with an important change of self-image, present enough information so that readers can understand the causes and effects of the change and can recognize the before-and-after portraits.
4. Write a reminiscence of a place that has had considerable significance for you (either during your childhood or more recently)--positive, negative, or both. For readers who are unfamiliar with the place, demonstrate its meaning through description, a series of vignettes, and/or an account of one or two key people or events you associate with that place.
5. In the spirit of the familiar saying, "It's the going, not the getting there, that matters," write an account of a memorable journey, important either because of the physical, emotional, or psychological experience of travel; or because of the phenomenon of leaving somewhere for an unknown experience.