Assignment #2- “The Blender Assignment” – Mixing Multiple Genres

4-5 pages of text + MLA works cited page and 2 pg reflection paper. 12 pt Times New Roman font, double spaced.

For this assignment, students are charged with the task of understanding the importance , purpose, and function of genre and how writers can blend genres to meet their rhetorical purpose and audience’s needs.

Students will be giving voice to/ exploring the effects of those classified as “outsiders” or “the other.” “Other” is contextually determined. “Otherness” is often, but not always, determined, by marginalizing factors. For example: race, class, gender, sexual preference, religion, age, etc. We could be looking at a multicultural football team. The quarterback, a white male, decides to step away from the dominant idea to cheat on the math midterm. He is immediately shunned by his teammates, hazed, warned, threatened, to name many behaviors, if he doesn’t follow the actions of his teammates and cheat OR tells of their plans. He is now an outsider; despite being a white male. This is just an example of a situation that is not contingent on a marginalizing factor. Mistreatment doesn’t always equal violence, it could also mean silence. We refuse to see/hear the “other” because acknowledging them may make us feel “oeey and gooey” and force us to act socially and ethnically responsible, which we might not be ready for. Those actions take strong, mature individuals. Some of us are ready to step in to that space. Others aren’t. Our growth as both writers and humans is infinite.

Students will reach into their memory bank and consider a time in their lives when they either were the outsider, witnessed an outsider story, or even joined with a group against an outsider. Honesty is key in this assignment. Honesty leads to growth and maturity.

Students must also explore the issues that stem from the narrative essay by using the genre of the expository essay. Then students will combine the two genres and compose an essay which both explores a topic and presents a narrative picture of this issue.

Students are encouraged to include other aspects to enrich their texts: artwork, memes, photography. Students can take any linguistic approach they wish; however, when incorporating outsider sources to support their text (within the expository aspects), proper MLA citations are expected and required, along with an MLA works cited page.

A two part draft process is also required for this assignment. We will be conducting self and group revisions in two in class workshops. This assignment is meant for you to push your limits and mine, as this is the first time I am designing and assigning this work. Also, while this assignment is meant for you to question, explore, and draw from personal experiences, remember that your peers will be reading this text. \*\*While I do hope you explore topics that make you uncomfortable, so that we can push discourse and make change, I do not want you to discuss personal topics that could possibly trigger hurtful memories for you.

Due Dates (scaffolding)

9/28- preliminary post on story summary and expository social issue

2 part genre analysis, one on narrative essay and one on expository essay.

* 10/5 and 10/7

10/14- 1st draft- self revision workshop

10/19- 2nd draft, peer review workship

10/21- final draft due