Unit IV Assignment

**The Revision Paper**

For the past three units, you have written an analysis of an author’s argument, a critique on language and identity within a discourse community, and a formal research paper with peer reviewed sources. You may have found that some of these assignments were more challenging to your particular strengths as a writer than others. Unit 4 allows you to play to your particular strengths while also requiring you to address your weaknesses. For this unit, you have two options. You may choose whichever you prefer, but keep in mind that you will have to justify your choice in a reflection essay. You should also keep in mind that **you are not revising for a higher grade- the revision will be graded as its own assignment.**

**Purposes**

* To demonstrate mastery of the concepts we’ve learned in class this semester
* To practice looking at writing as a continuous process, rather than a tool used to crank out a product
* To rethink the rhetorical strategies you use, and the way they influence your writing

**Option 1: The Straight Revision**

For your Unit IV assignment, you are asked to revise one of your essays from the previous three units, though I strongly encourage you to use either your Unit I or Unit II essay because you will have more distance from those essays, and also because the in-class work we will do over the last two weeks of class will use one of those two essays (this will give you a head-start on your Unit IV project). You are free to choose any essay to revise, but please be aware that you are required to do *substantial* changes in your revision paper, which may include a new organizational tactic, a new perspective or focus, or the addition/subtraction of outside research or information. What counts as substantial? A good rule of thumb might be that you should have *at least* two pages of new or rewritten text (not necessarily additional information, but new writing), and that your entire paper, regardless of the essay you choose to revise, should, once again, be at least the same page length specified for the original assignment.

**Option 2: Genre adaptation**

In this option, you will begin with your original paper, and create a new project in a different genre, much like basing a movie on a novel. The new genre can include but is not limited to: creative fiction, creative non-fiction, a website, a blog, a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a poem, a newspaper article, a video, a painting or drawing, a song, a billboard, a skit, an interpretive dance, a papier-mâché sculpture—the sky’s the limit. In choosing your new genre, you will need to consider what information from your original paper should be adapted (included, subtracted, or enhanced) so that your new project adheres to the characteristics of the new genre. Choose a new genre that will play to your strengths as a student/musician/fiction writer/artist, etc. You must also be able to justify your choice in a reflection.

**The Reflection**

Your revision for option 1 should be accompanied by a reflection of 2 – 2 ½ pages in length; the revision for option 2 should be accompanied by a reflection of 3 – 3 ½ pages in length. The reason option 2 has a longer reflection is because you should choose a new genre that plays to your strengths the most, which therefore might be easier for you to get through, so requiring that you write 3 pages minimum evens out the amount of writing students who choose option 1 will do. In this reflection, you should explain why you chose to revise as you did and what how you grew as a writer over the course of the semester. What did you change? Why? What were the choices you made and the problems you tried to address—in other words, where and why you added new text, where and why you deleted old, where and why you changed existing text? How does the new project exemplify what you’ve learned this semester? How does it show that you’ve met the course objectives?

**A few things to keep in mind…**

1) Your revision is evaluated as a separate paper unto itself. It does not automatically receive a higher grade than the original simply because it is a revision. Notice that this fact might have some bearing on which paper you choose to revise. For example: Since you are not necessarily revising any paper for a higher grade, you might prefer to revise the paper you liked most, or that you consider your best.

2) Your revision paper/project should be accompanied by your original draft of the paper. Since this is assumed to be your most accomplished essay of the semester, there are no *specific* grading criteria, but you would be well advised to revisit the grading criteria for the original assignment, as well as the cumulative grading criteria for the course.

Which paper should you revise, then? That decision is yours, of course, but here are some possibilities to consider: If you choose to revise your Unit I essay, for example, you could draw upon what you have learned about analysis and evaluating an author’s argument since then. If you select Unit II, you might want to draw upon the knowledge you gained from your group members and your research on your chosen discourse community, as well what you’ve learned about analysis and contributing claims to “the big picture” when analyzing. If you choose your Unit III paper, you could draw upon what you’ve learned through your research, the TED talks we watched in class, and Ruggiero’s moral reasoning method to revise your essay. With all of the past papers from this class, you could draw upon the feedback you received from your classmates (or me) as a way to reconsider your original project. If you need help in deciding, please see me.

**Unit 4 Due Date: Monday, December 16th by 10:00 AM in my office or online (the essay portion must be submitted online by 10:00 AM, but if you have a project that you cannot submit online, you bring it to my office). We do not have a final exam for this class.**