**Major Project #1: “Academic Self” Profile & Interview**

**Prospectus Due: Feb. 2, 5 p.m.**

**Final Draft Due on Class Blog: Monday Feb. 9, 5 p.m.**

**Purpose**: Our goal in this project is to develop a connection with someone in the class, to have a conversation about academic selves with that person, and to write an academic profile of them based on and using these conversations. You will introduce your partner and their academic self to the rest of the class by posting this profile on our class blog. You will also need to connect the conversation to at least one of the sources that we have read or watched together.

**Objectives**: Build and strengthen these skills through this assignment: interpersonal communication, listening, summary, synthesis, source use, and posting on a class blog.

**Class blog**: during week 3 or 4, you will be introduced to the class blog and how to post on it. I’ll show you how to find the blog and how to create a post. Don’t worry! If you can type and cut and paste, and attach things, you can post on a blog. The blog format we use is really easy.

**Audience and rhetorical situation / format**: You’ll post this profile on our class blog, and you can title it something simple, like “Partner’s Name: Academic Profile.” It should be 400-700 words (remember most blog posts are pretty short). The audience is the rest of the class, including your prof. Like you, your audience is interviewing someone and writing a profile of them, so think about what you would want to read in such a profile. Like you, they probably have a story to tell. Your audience is reading this on a blog, and so will expect more than just a huge block of text. We’ll need a compelling introduction, paragraphs with details that support what you say about your partner in your introduction, good transitions between paragraphs, and a conclusion that gives us something to think about or maybe apply to our own reflections about our academic selves. A picture of your partner (that they choose) would be great.

**Getting Started:** I will put you into pairs during the third week, and email you in iCollege. Some of you may be in traids. You need to establish contact and decide together how you will have your conversation about your academic selves. IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM YOUR PERSON WITHIN A FEW DAYS, please contact me ASAP. Your job is to talk with your partner over webex (or zoom or facetime or whatever), email, chat, or phone about your academic selves. You can talk about your first and second IPs, other classes you’ve taken, your reactions to the reading and viewing, your school backgrounds, your academic histories, and so on. Be compassionate, respectful, non-judgmental, and curious. You need to present yourself to your partner as someone who is really interested in their story. Look and sound interested and ask follow-up questions.

**What to do with the raw material**: Take notes of both meta (big ideas) and details—you’ll need these later. If you record the interview (ask permission first), you still need to take notes: notes are for synthesizing and making sense of the material. You can’t just put a transcript of this interview up—you have to shape the material, decide what’s important, think about the common themes or recurring ideas here, and create links to the class viewings/readings.

**Ground Rules:** Be compassionate, interested, respectful, non-judgmental, and curious. Try to get into an \*actual conversation\* instead of just rote Q&A. Ask questions that get your partner to keep talking. If something comes up during your conversation that your partner doesn’t want to share with the class, respect that and ask them how to handle the information sensitively.

**I’m pairing you at random**, so you need to be willing to risk a little and get to know someone you might not have reached out to on your own. I’m doing this so that you can make a connection to a class mate (which is a harder thing when we’re not seeing each other twice a week) who you can talk to about class stuff, but also because it can be easy to forget that our academic selves don’t just happen on our own—we develop these through being in community. This is one way to build community. If your partner doesn’t respond to your efforts at connecting, please tell me as soon as possible so I can pair you with someone else. If something else goes weird, let me know and I’ll see how I can help.

**Your prospectus (this is another word for “plan”), due 2/2,** should be **ONE PAGE ONLY** and include 3 short items (a list is fine):

* Your timeline for the work—dates you plan to talk to your partner (you need to work this out with them)
* Date for peer review (see below)
* Questions or potential assignment obstacles.

**Peer review** will happen in other random pairs, and I will give you comprehensive directions for that after I show you how to post on the blog.

**Questions you could ask:**

* What were your three “academic self” words?
* Where did you go to k-12? Did you go to college just after k-12? Why or why not?
* Can you say more about that? Why? What happened next?
* How long have you been at GSU? Why did you pick GSU?
* What’s been your favorite reading or video so far?
* What’s your major? What are you taking right now? What’s your career goal?
* What’s your biggest influence on your academic self? Who is your biggest influence? Who are your mentors?
* What’s the thing about college that you find really baffling or frustrating?
* What’s something you’re proud of with your academic self? What’s your favorite subject?

**Evaluation:** Your major project #1 will be graded on how well it fulfills the following criteria:

* The introduction introduces your partner and gives us an overview of their academic self
* The essay uses well-chosen examples, evidence, quotations, or paraphrases to support this picture of your partner
* Paragraphs in the essay are unified and coherent, with one primary idea evident in each one
* You refer meaningfully to one of our common class readings / viewings
* The conclusion gives your audience something to think about
* Each sentence is clear and concise with minimal grammatical errors
* All sources are cited accurately within the essay
* The post is longer than 400 words but shorter than 700 words (900 max!)