PERSONAL PROLOGUE ON CULTURE AND PLACE

As we have been examining in class, the geography and reality of a location is a key determinant in the identity of a culture or a person. As you have come to this new location, the AASU campus, you might find yourself reflecting on where you come from and who you are. You will have an opportunity to do this kind of reflection in a formal way for this project. You will want to consider the models we have been analyzing and examining in class. Begin by brainstorming about the following prompts:

1. Where are you from? Explore where you are from through narration and description and come to some conclusions about how that origin determines your identity culturally.
2. Write about a memorable place in your past. Describe what makes it memorable. Explore the implications of this landmark in terms of what it represents culturally.
3. Be alternative. What is something that is normally not thought of as a place but should be considered a place? Explore some aspect of culture spatially. Or use place as a kind of metaphor to understand something abstract.

THE PROCESS:

- Notice that each of the three prompts asks you to come to some sort of conclusion. In other words, these ask you to state some purpose. You must have something to say, a claim to make, a point to make, or some sort of assertion you can prove to be true. It is not enough to narrate and describe, rather that narrative and description should illustrate something or prove something or serve a purpose. We shouldn’t read the paper and then ask “so what?” You should tell us what the significance is.
- Consider the various essays we have read as models for writing about cultural values. Select a few rhetorical moves you admire to incorporate into your own essay. Be an artist!
- Now that you have a purpose, rough out a structure and consider what sections you want to cover in making your case. Looking at your descriptions and observations, what evidence do you have in your assertion of this site as a manifestation of cultural values?
- Draft with your notes and rough outline in hand.
- Turn to properly cited research if necessary to make your argument clearer and more persuasive
- Proofread to attend to those pesky finer points. Revise again with craft and style in mind! Get feedback. Revise again.
- An A paper will address the above issues and satisfy the requirements as outlined in the departmental grading policy.
- Your essay must be 4-5 double-spaced pages. It should have 1 inch margins. It should be in a reasonable professional font like Times New Roman 11 or 12 point or Garamond 11 point (which you see here). If you are tempted to achieve length via a technicality or plagiarism, DON’T. See me instead.
You are not required to use resources for this assignment—if you choose to consult outside sources, we need to acknowledge these sources in proper MLA form. If you have any questions about this issue, consult with me rather than committing an Honor Offense.