

**Homework #1****Due in class T 9/13**

- 1) WRITE a letter to me introducing yourself to me as a writer: What's your relationship to writing? What are your hopes (and fears?) for this class? What happened with you and writing in high school, or elsewhere? Anything else about you & writing you want to tell me? —e.g., is English your second language, writing you've done on your own, what you like to read . . .  
*1-1½ pages, word processed, single-spaced with space between paragraphs*
  
- 2) READ Didion's "Why I Write," which was originally a talk. Didion is a highly-regarded novelist and essayist of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century with an especially distinctive voice. Also READ Maurice Holt's essay "The Nature and Purpose of Education." I will give you handouts of these essays at our first class meeting. Holt's essay and a brief author bio is also available via the following link:  
<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/publications/rsl/maurice-holt.html>  
(You may want to take a few minutes to browse this website, which contains many fine short essays.)
  
- 3) Select a brief passage—a sentence or two—from one of these essays and respond to it. This will be your first Journal entry (see below). NOTE: By "respond," I don't mean to explain the passage but to amplify it, extend it, question it, talk back to it—in short, to think about it in relation to something you know or have experienced.  
*1 page double-spaced.*  
We will discuss Didion's and Holt's essays and share your written responses in class.

**Journals**

Journals for this class will be a hybrid of a few different kinds of journals. They will include:

- A minimum of 6 journal entries containing your own observations and reflections on the subject of food. They may stem from our readings, ideas that come up in class discussion, a movie you see, a conversation with your mother, or . . . I won't tell you when to write these entries—they're for you to jot down when you have some time to reflect. While they are not essays, these entries *should* demonstrate thought—the reader should see you thinking and making connections.

NOTES:

- 1) Because your Journals will be shared with me and, occasionally, classmates, they should be typed up. So keep your Journal on separate sheets of paper, which you can gather together at the end of the term.
  - 2) If you wish to write more than 6 journal entries, you may do so for extra credit.
- A few prompted responses to readings. E.g., Homework #1 is your first Journal entry.
  - A vocabulary list. This is a place for you to pick up new words from our readings. Your list should include the word, its part of speech, the etymology (derivation) of the word, and a brief definition—*only* for the word as it is used in the context in which you encounter it. (That is, many words have multiple definitions; I only want you to include the one pertinent to your reading.) Also note the reading in which you encountered the word—e.g., "Didion," "Gladwell," etc.

NOTES:

- 1) Your list should include a minimum of 20 words but may include more for extra credit.
- 2) This part of your Journal may be handwritten.