The Story Outside the Text
Scene + Process Paper

Guidelines: printed + stapled, size 12 font, double-spaced, proper heading, title
Scene 1 page, Process Paper 3 pages

Deadlines:
6/13: Scene Rough Draft (2 copies)
6/16 Scene + Process Paper Final Draft

*I will not accept your narrative without a process paper. Your grade will be based on the thought that went into crafting the story and not the execution of the story itself, therefore I cannot grade your work without a process paper.

Scene (1 page): As Hemingway’s Iceberg Theory asserts, so much of a story takes place outside the text. It is up to us to read closely and intuit the circumstances that motivate a character’s actions, fears, and desires.

Pick one character from a story we have read this semester, and develop a scene that reveals something new about the character’s past or future. The decisions you make about the character should be grounded in the actual story—for example, you may write a narrative where Dina writes her application essay to Yale. You may not write a narrative where Dina travels to the moon.

Your narrative:
a) must contain at least one character from a short story we read this semester
b) can be written in your choice of narrative (i.e. first person, second person)
c) should reveal something new about a character’s motives, fears, and desires.
d) should employ writing techniques such as sensory imagery, voice, and “show don’t tell.”

Process Paper (2–4 pages): The process paper is a reflection of your writing process and critical examination of your work in relationship to the story and character that inspired it.

Like any other essay it should include an introduction with your thesis, focused body paragraphs with quotes (from both the source text and your own story) and analysis, and a conclusion that leaves the reader with something to consider.

Your process paper must:
a) refer directly to the scene in the story that inspired your own narrative.
b) analyze rich quotes from original story using proper quoting practices to support your interpretation of the character.
c) explain the reasoning behind your creative choices (i.e. I did x in order to reveal y)
d) discuss what the writing process led you to discover about the characters and/or yourself as a writer.

Grading Policy: Late essays will be penalized by 1/3 a letter grade for each day they are overdue (i.e. a B assignment that is one day late will be a B-). I will NOT accept papers that are over 3 days late. If you cannot turn a paper on time or are having difficulty completing an assignment, you must notify me in advance so that we can work out a special arrangement. Plagiarism will result in an F in the course.
Process Paper Outline

1. Your introduction should answer the following questions:
   a) What story/character did you choose to write about and why?
   b) What moment in time in the character’s life does your scene examine?
   c) What is something new about the character’s desires, fears, motives and/or emotions that your scene reveals?

2. Each body paragraph should:
   a) Focus on a unique element from your scene, such as a creative decision (i.e. Dina physically abuses a future partner, Yunior goes to Harvard) OR literary technique (i.e. setting, narrative voice, image, word choice, metaphor)
   b) Provide AND interpret a quoted example from the original story (or another story if relevant) that offers a foundation for your decision OR demonstrates the impact of that particular technique
   c) Analyze how the example justifies your own creative decision or the way you want the reader to interpret a corresponding example from your own scene.

*You should have 2 or 3 body paragraphs
**Each paragraph must have a quoted example from a relevant story, even if the quote is just a couple of words like “parabola” and “hominid”
***A quote cannot exceed three sentences. You can remove unnecessary information using ellipses (…)

3. You conclusion should:
   a) Reflect on the writing process itself: What did you learn/enjoy/discover?