Author's Notes | Due: Sept. 2, Oct. 30, Nov. 20

Goal:
The goal of this assignment is to practice reflective writing and to think critically about our own work and development as writers.

Assignment:
Good writers tend to think carefully and persistently about their writing. To grow and improve as a thinker and a writer, you need to think critically about your work. This kind of thinking-about-self is called "reflection." As with seeing our reflection in a mirror, reflection (and reflective writing) is about turning our gaze upon ourselves, to see/think about ourselves and our work from another perspective. "Author Notes" are designed to help you engage with this type of reflective practice. **Your assignment is to reflect on the work/writing you have completed for each Essay (and any exercises/ assignments leading up to it), and write a brief reflective statement that examines your writing process(es), how you've improved as a writer, and how you will continue to improve your writing and rhetorical techniques from one assignment to the next.**

Each note should do the following, in **approx. one double-spaced page** (12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins on all sides, no extra space between paragraphs, no superfluous spacing)**:**

- Offer a holistic assessment of the paper;
- Identify specific areas where your writing has improved;
- Identify specific areas where you can continue to improve your writing;
- Articulate a specific course of action that explains how you will continue to develop your craft as a writer based on your self-assessment and your instructor's feedback;
- Identify what has (or has not) worked for you inside/outside the class to help you succeed on this assignment and what might help you on future assignments;
- Present and reflect on relevant examples from your experience to support your ideas.

Invention and Inquiry:
As you are writing your main essay assignments or working in class, take a few moments here and there to think critically and reflectively about what you are doing, what is or is not working, how you are approaching your work, what feedback you've received, etc. When you take these brief reflective moments, jot down some notes about what you're thinking/feeling, and why you may be thinking/ feeling that way. Keep these notes to look back over after you've completed your essay and begin on your Author's Note.

Audience and Tone:
The audience is your instructor, perhaps your peers in the class, and <u>yourself</u>. This is reflective writing, so it does not need to be formal, but it should be coherent. Use language that prompts reflective writing/ thinking, such as "I think. . .," "I felt. . .," "I wondered. . .," etc.

If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, I encourage you to e-mail me or come see me during my office hours. Also consider visiting the Miller Writing Center for help.