English 101/Morales

**Personal Reflection/Narrative Essay**

**Length**: 750-1000 words, MLA formatting

**DUE**: April 11

Instructions:

Write a compelling, thoughtful, and engaging narrative essay on one of the prompts listed below. To effectively write this essay, you will need to read and study the essay models as well as any other narrative essays you can get your hands on.

1. Food often connects us through our cultures and our families. Write an essay in which you tell a story centered around food—a special dish, a tradition, a meaningful event. Use Chang Rae Lee’s essay “Coming Home Again” as your model. As with Chang Rae Lee’s essay, your essay does not need to be about the food itself, but more about the meaning that we give it.
2. Places change over the years just as people do. Write an essay about a place that you re-visited that has changed. Or maybe the place stayed the same but you have changed. As your model for this essay use E.B. White’s “Once More to the Lake.”
3. Most of us have, at one time or another, felt unfairly judged or even excluded. Sometimes this treatment results in name calling or even violence, often based on our race, ethnicity, or appearance. Write about a time when you experienced prejudice (or when you yourself were prejudiced against someone else). Use “Graduation” by Maya Angelou as your model.
4. A job can greatly alter the way we view the world, good or bad. Write about a job that changed your outlook, using “Working at Wendy’s” as a model.

Requirements:

A. Essay should use the first-person point of view (“I”)

B. Must include clear time transitions

C. Must include reflection and your thoughts (as well as story)

D. Must include description, colorful details

E. Should have a clear point, either explicitly stated or implicit within the narrative (thesis)

F. Essay should be carefully edited and easy to follow. Pay special attention to verb tenses. Be consistent. Don’t shift between past and present unnecessarily.