Assignment for 9/19

Write a rough draft of you first assessment to write a 4-5-page paper in which you draw from your experiences and the materials we have examined as a class to answer the question, what does it mean to live a life of significance? By what criteria or measure might we judge a life as significant? What are the qualities, characteristics, actions, and attitudes associated with such a life?

You also need to write a Dear Reader letter to accompany your draft in which you respond to the following questions.

* What are the strengths of your rough draft? What are the problems of the draft?
* What were the challenges you encountered writing your draft?
* What is your thesis?
* If you had two more days to write this draft, where would you focus your attention?
* What questions are you asking about your draft that you want to make sure that your readers answer?

Here’s an example of a Dear Reader letter:

Dear Reader,

I chose to write my paper about the death of newspaper. The strength of my draft is the relevancy of this topic. The weakness of the paper is that I assume everyone cares about newspapers. I was surprised to learn from my peer group that they read news online and think of newspapers as part of the past, not the present or the future. My challenge is to persuade my peers to care about the shift from print to online news. If I had two more days to write this draft, I would try to develop a more interesting thesis. Right now my thesis is that the death of newspapers will have a negative effect on local politics. I would like my readers to pose some counterexamples to my thesis and tell me if my examples are effective.

Nile Smith

Print two double-spaced copies of your draft and Dear Reader letter.