**Midterm Reflection**

From the beginning of this course, my approach to writing has evolved significantly. At the start, my writing was more instinctual and informal, with less emphasis on analysis and research. My personal narrative, “Time for Another Day” exemplifies my initial writing style—immersive and descriptive but focused more on storytelling rather than deeper reflection or rhetorical awareness. As the semester has progressed, I have learned to incorporate more analytical depth, a clearer structure, and research-based support into my work. My writing has developed in ways that allow me to make more intentional choices about style, organization, and how I represent my argument. I have become more adept at balancing creativity with clarity, ensuring that my personal voice is evident while maintaining a strong foundation rooted in coherence and simplicity. This growth is particularly noticeable in my ability to revise and refine my work, where I now take a more critical and thoughtful approach to improving coherence, argument strength, and integration of sources. These changes can be most noticed in my personal notebook.

At the start of the semester, my notebook primarily consisted of freewrites and brainstorming exercises. Looking back, I see that my notes have transformed from scattered thoughts into more organized and purposeful reflections. Initially, my notebook felt like a place to simply jot down ideas, but now it has become an essential tool for developing my writing. I use it to explore potential research questions, draft thesis statements, and test out different writing styles. Additionally, my notebook has been instrumental in tracking my personal growth as a writer, serving as a space where I document challenges, successes, and insights gained from class discussions and readings. The development of my notebook has mirrored the development of my writing process—it has become a more structured, yet flexible, space where I can refine my thinking and shape my arguments before formalizing them into complete drafts. One moment I clearly remember my personal notebook being useful was during the Socratic seminar we had in class.

One of the most meaningful experiences in this course for me was participating in the Socratic discussion. Engaging with my classmates in an open discussion helped me realize how different perspectives shape interpretations of a text; I was able to reflect on the importance of making stronger connections between my ideas and external sources. This realization has influenced my annotated bibliography, which reflects a more purposeful selection of sources that support my topic on the benefits of generalization before specialization in childhood development. The Socratic seminar pushed me to articulate my thoughts more clearly and confidently, while also considering perspectives that challenged my initial viewpoints. This experience reinforced the importance of discussion and collaboration in refining my ideas and arguments. It was a key moment for me in the course because it forced me to think critically in real-time, defend my ideas while remaining open to opposing viewpoints, and develop a stronger sense of how to construct and support arguments in a live setting. The ability to actively engage with others’ interpretations and refine my own reasoning has since translated into my writing, making my essays more nuanced and well-supported.

Three of the most meaningful readings for me so far have been *Weaving Personal Experience into Academic Writing*, *Looking for Trouble*, and *Assessing Source Credibility*. *Weaving Personal Experience into Academic Writing* encouraged me to blend personal storytelling with academic arguments, which is something I now strive for in my writing. Before reading this text, I often kept my personal experiences separate from my academic work, viewing them as unrelated. However, this reading helped me understand that integrating my own experiences into my writing can make my arguments more compelling and relatable. It has helped me rethink how I frame personal narratives within broader themes, and I have since made a conscious effort to incorporate personal insights into my research-based writing. This shift has allowed my writing to feel more authentic and engaging while still maintaining the structure and credibility needed for academic work.

*Looking for Trouble* introduced me to the idea that research is about identifying and addressing problems. It shifted my mindset from merely reporting information to actively engaging in questioning the research and analysing it. Prior to this reading, my research process was more about summarizing sources, but this text taught me how to critically evaluate research and build my own arguments around unanswered questions. This shift has significantly influenced my annotated bibliography, as I now prioritize sources that help me explore gaps in existing knowledge rather than simply reinforcing what I already know. This has made my research more meaningful and has pushed me to ask deeper questions rather than settle for surface-level conclusions.

*Assessing Source Credibility* helped me refine my research process. Before, I would select sources based primarily on their relevance, but now I critically evaluate their credibility, bias, and depth of information before including them in my work. I have learned to analyze the authority, accuracy, and purpose of a source before using it as evidence in my writing. This has made my research more reliable and persuasive, as I now rely on well-supported and critically examined sources rather than just those that align with my preexisting ideas. This reading has also improved my ability to recognize logical fallacies and bias in sources, ensuring that my arguments are backed by sound and trustworthy evidence.

Moving forward, I plan to continue refining my ability to synthesize research with personal insights. My goal is to strengthen my argumentative writing skills and ensure that my voice remains clear and confident while integrating sources effectively. I also want to continue using my notebook as a space for experimentation, allowing myself to explore different genres and writing approaches without the pressure of perfection. By maintaining a balance between creativity and structure, I hope to further develop my ability to write compelling and well-supported arguments.

This midterm reflection has helped me recognize how much my writing has developed throughout the semester. I have gained a stronger sense of my writing voice, learned to integrate research more effectively, and started experimenting with different approaches to analysis and argumentation. The Socratic seminar, my engagement with course readings, and my notebook entries have all contributed to my growth as a writer. Moving forward, I will continue refining my ability to research with personal insight and ensure that my writing remains engaging. This course has provided me with the tools to become a more confident and versatile writer, and I look forward to further developing these skills in the remainder of the semester.