**English 1130.010 / 012 - Academic Writing – Fall 2016 – Douglas College**

**Essay Assignment #1**

**Due: Final Draft Due Sept. 27, 2016 - in class or by Email**

**Sept. 22 -** Essay #1 draft due in class (please bring the entire printed rough draft in hard copy—no computer only versions—consisting of thesis statement and no fewer than four paragraphs total (for example, introduction, conclusion, and two body paragraphs).

**Length: ~750 Words**

**Audience:** You are writing for a 1st-year student, like you, in English 1130: Academic Writing who is interested in learning more about writing essays for this course.

**Task:** Write an essay outlining what a student in English 1130: Academic Writing should know about essay writing and more generally about writing at a post-secondary level.

**Specifications:** The essay should be ~750 words (around three pages, double-spaced) and follow all the formal requirements outlined in the course outline. You should not have any secondary sources in your essay. Please remember to write to your audience and its expectations, not to what you think I want you to write. You may use the first-person pronoun if you wish, but it is not required.

**Successful essays will do some–or all–of the following:**

* Define essay writing / explain the characteristics of academic writing and why certain characteristics are more important than others
* Identify a few things that are important for essay writing
* Make a case for adopting certain approaches to essay writing
* Explain why your approaches are worth adopting
* Suggest how adopting your approaches will lead to success in essay writing

**Hint:** Even though this paper does not require you to use secondary sources, you should have a general familiarity with what academic writing is and how it works. You can get at this information through Google, by consulting the library, and by doing other kinds of research along with participating in our class conversations. Be careful you do not plagiarize materials. Instead, rely on your sense of what a student like you would need to know. Remember to ask questions and work with them. Here are a few examples, please do not try to answer all of these in one paper—narrow your focus.

* What would you want to know about academic writing / essay writing / college writing?
* Why would you want to know that?
* What assumptions are you making about essay writing?
* How are those assumptions correct or incorrect?
* What information do you think is essential? Why is it essential? Is essential the word? How so?
* What is the “shared language” that incoming students would benefit from knowing? Why?