Towards Your Own Mestiza/o Rhetoric:
Reflections on Your Writer’s Autobiography and Self Evaluation

Five double-spaced pages in 12 point font with one-inch margins all around, please include a footer with your name and page numbers

(In this essay, the objective is to have student's use all of their experiences and writings this semester to create their own theory of writing, in the way Anzaldúa does)

The purpose of this assignment is to have you use your experience in this class to articulate your own theory of writing, your own rhetoric. We began this course with an essay asking you to reflect on yourself as a writer. Please write a five-page essay reflecting on where you were as a writer when you started this course, where you are now, and where you want to go.

If you remember, we began this semester by reading an interview with Gloria Anzaldúa “Toward a Mestiza Rhetoric: Gloria Anzaldúa on Composition and Postcoloniality.” Here Anzaldúa is calling for, “another way of ordering, another way of composing, another rhetoric” (48). Now, at the end of the semester, your Mestiza/o Rhetoric will give you the opportunity to reflect and evaluate on yourself as a writer and your relationship to writing as they were shaped by this class and I ask you to articulate your own rhetoric. Please re-read "Toward a Mestiza Rhetoric" as a way to think about your own experience in this class, your reflections and evaluation, to begin to articulate your own rhetoric (or theory of writing).

Take time to reflect upon your experiences in this course: What have you learned/done? What has challenged you, and how have you meet these challenges? What insights, strategies, or understandings of yourself as a writer and your writing process have you gained? What came hard? What came easy? What have you liked? What have you disliked?

To prepare to write your reflections, re-read your Writer’s Autobiography assignment. Reflect on the conversations you have had about your writing and others’ writing in class, in tutorials, and outside of class. Re-read the papers you have written, your reflections, and my comments. What do you notice? Carefully re-read your composition-writing journal. Can you discern any theme/s, issues, or concerns running throughout? Taking these things into account, what now do you understand about writing and yourself as a writer? What advice will you give yourself and others in the future?

Consider your work in light of the goals of the course stated on the first day as listed below:

PREPARATION:

Re-read Anzaldúa’s interview and do in-class writing activities, and group exercises to get students to think about their own rhetoric: define “rhetoric”