Finishing the Course

Your final portfolio will include a final draft of your 6-8 page evidence-based “Capstone Project” and your own rhetorical analysis of this essay. Your analysis will take the form of a **three page reflective essay**. In this essay, you will discuss the ways in which the work you have done in composition I and II shaped the rhetorical choices you made as you composed your argument. You will also explain how the skills you have developed and the changes you have experienced in your writing over the course of the year are represented within this capstone project.

Use your responses to the following questions to begin developing your rhetorical analysis:

- What considerations did you have in mind as you chose your topic for this assignment?
- How did you discover (or develop) your thesis?
- What effect did you hope to have on your readers with this essay? In other words, what was your main purpose in presenting this argument?
- In what ways did you attempt to make your essay appealing to your audience?
- What types of evidence did you use to develop and support your claims? How did you decide which sources to include (and which to leave out)?
- What choices did you make in terms of style, voice, language, and tone? Were these choices deliberate ones? If so, on what basis did you make them?
- How have you attempted to move your readers through your argument? In other words, why did you organize your essay in the way that you did? What was your organizational strategy and how did you attempt to implement it?
- In what ways does your essay reflect the conventions of academic writing? How has your understanding of these conventions shaped your argument?
- In what ways does this capstone essay represent your standing as a writer who has now completed the composition sequence? How would you assess your own strengths and weaknesses? What have you accomplished in your writing over the course of the year? With what aspects of your writing are you most—and least—satisfied at this point, and why?

**The Portfolio Contents:**

1. The reflective letter discussed above.
2. A copy of your capstone essay project.
3. We will be writing an in-class essay during our final class meeting (December 6). It’s not something you can study for; it will be a reflection that is somewhat different from the assignment above. It will count as a daily quiz.

**Mechanical requirements:**

- The final product will be typed and double-spaced according to MLA format.
- The paper will be at least 3 pages long (That’s about 1000 words).

**Due Dates:**

1. **Tuesday, December 4:** Bring TWO printed copies of your rough draft for peer editing.
2. **Thursday, December 6:** Final copy of portfolio essay is DUE!

This essay is worth 75 points.