Portfolio #1: Indigenous Place, Memory, and History (100 Points)

Rough Drafts Due: January 21st
Portfolio Due: January 28th

Each one of us has a history and relationship to place that is a part of our identities and lives. This project asks you to write a personal narrative that addresses your relationship with place and history, with a specific focus on the intersections between your histories and relationships with land as irrevocably woven into Native land bases, politics, genders, and sexualities. 3-5 pages double-spaced. A brief reflection on your learning (1.5-3 pages double-spaced) will accompany the project. This is a relatively short writing assignment. It will be impossible in 3-5 pages to talk about everything you want to talk about. That's okay. Part of this assignment is thinking about what is most important to you to talk about within the context and purpose of this project.

What's the point of this assignment? The point of this assignment is to situate yourself, and your own sexuality and gender identity, in relationship to Native histories and to develop and understanding of the places you are from or live now as Native places.

What style should I write this in? This is up to you. What is important here is that you choose a style that is most rhetorically appropriate. You can certainly write this in an academic style if you'd like, but you are free to be creative in this project. You can use more than one style, as long as it's rhetorically appropriate. You can use everything we've read as rhetorical models.

Do I have to do additional research? You very well may have to do additional research. Keep in mind, though, that "additional research" could mean asking your family questions. It could mean walking around campus to try to listen/see the "hidden" or forgotten histories of this particular place.

What if we don't know and can't find out what these histories are? Not knowing can be an important place to write from. You might ask yourself, "What is hidden? Why? How?"

What will I actually turn in to you? Your final essay, drafts of your essay, peer-reviews of your essay, a rubric, and a reflection. Use a paperclip or binder clip to keep everything together—there is no need for a folder or portfolio cover.

What is this reflection you speak of? The reflection is meant to do just that—reflect on what you learned as a writer, student, and person during this project. You might use the following questions as a guide: What did I learn as a writer through this project? How did this project shift my perspectives or contribute further to my understanding of these issues? How does what I learned through this project inform my life outside of the classroom?

A 4.0 Paper Will:

• Identify, situate, and discuss the places you live in or have lived in relationship to the Native peoples and nations.
• Articulate the entwined relationships between place, Indigenous nations, colonization, gender, and sexuality.
• Arrangement: Well organized—the organization shows it is part of an overall rhetorical strategy.
• Ethos: Is carefully proofread and free of errors.
• Choose one additional writing skill to focus on for this project: What is an aspect of your writing that you would like to focus on? Choose this before you begin writing, and identify it to me in the rubric you'll be given during peer-review.
• Include a brief (1.5-3 pages double spaced) reflection on your learning. You should write this after you complete the project. There is no need to have this part of the assignment during peer review.