Digital Essay Assignment

For the remainder of the class, you will work to create a digital essay that draws on the genre of the "This I Believe" essay as a model about something you value in relation to our course topics (gender, race, class, writing, body image, etc). You will be following the basic guidelines for "This I Believe" statements: ***tell a story, be brief, name your belief, be positive, and be personal***. The digital essay will require that you put your own experience into conversation with our course reading. It will also require that you put the course readings into conversation with one another as you develop your own ideas. In other words, you will put together a project that explains what you think is most important about our course topics, drawing on your personal experience to help explain your perspective and drawing on the course texts and/or other texts to support your claims. This can take the form of an iMovie, a prezi, a powerpoint, etc. However, I encourage you to be creative.

As you brainstorm ideas for your digital essay, you might want to consider some of the following questions: What do you think is the most pressing issue we've discussed in terms of body image? How have your own experiences shaped how you feel about people, cultures, or writing? What purposes should writing serve? What have been some of the most memorable school experiences you've had and how have they shaped your life? What are some core values or beliefs that guide your life, and what are their connections to current events, popular culture, etc?

You will have a number of homework assignments leading up to the digital project, including a project proposal that will help you prepare for the execution of the project. We will also have quite a bit of in-class workshop time during which you will be able to work on your projects. Keep in mind that your grade for this project will depend more on your critical thinking and the writing work that goes into the project, which means that you don't need to have great artistic or graphic design skills to do well on this assignment.

Your digital project will involve all of the writing skills that we have been working on up to this point. In addition, your project will need to:

- Clearly articulate your point – what are you trying to argue? Who are you trying to address?
- Include some personal narrative to help explain or support your claims.
- Combine text, visuals, and sound rhetorically in ways that adds to, rather than detracts from, your essay.
- Incorporate a key quote or passage from at least one of the texts we've read so far in class or an outside source.
- Be in a digital format that you can share with your classmates on the last day of class.

You must be ready to *share your project in class* on the last day of class—**Wed, August 7th.** The final copy of your digital project, along with your project reflection (you will receive the assignment sheet for the reflection next week), are due via email (project) and in print (reflection) on Wed, August 7th.