

Writing prompt # today

Significant perspectives

Do you know what each of those words means?

Significant. What does it mean? Is it part of your everyday vocabulary?

Can you use the word in a sentence?

Go ahead. That's the beginning of our writing prompt for today.

On your paper, write down the word, *significant* and give it a definition, like you are explaining its meaning to a friend, in your words. Now use *significant* in a sentence.

And now let's do the same for the word *perspective*.

On the lines below your writing on *significant*, in similar manner write down the word, *perspective* and what it means to you, how you would explain this to a friend. Now use the word in a sentence.

By the way, when you use the word in a sentence, try to use the word in a manner in which it supplies a context clue for the reader. Here's an example:

He's got a new perspective ever since he read that article.

A reader can kind of figure out what *perspective* means just from playing with that example.

Dig?

So....

The fact that you are here is what matters. Where are we? We are in a place where we have agreed to meet in order to learn. You have deliberately turned your attention to your studies. You know how many pages you have written. You know what you need to do. And if you are reading this sentence during class today, then you likely have written a good many papers. That is good. I admire your diligence. Most of you are not only working, but are creating. I hope for many of you this is exciting because you are creating beautiful portfolios, something to be proud of.

What does a person expect to happen if that person fails to write many papers? I see the phone play in class, the card play. I am not going to get upset by this. I don't like to get upset. I want to be a man of peace now. I am calling parents, emailing them. It is very simple to explain your grade to them: a point a page. I simply ask you, what grade do you expect to receive if you do not write these papers? What grade will mom accept when she knows all you have to do is write one more page to raise your grade one more point? What are you waiting for?

And for those who are writing the papers, actually for all of you, I want to prepare you for your final grade.

By Friday, you must have given your portfolio as you have it thus far to your previous English teacher for review. If your previous English teacher is unavailable, then give your portfolio to Ms. Kaniff, her classroom is in A-hall.

While your folders are being reviewed, continue going to the PowerPoint and scroll through for open prompts. Remember, prompt fifty asked you to design your own prompts as well, write on one of those.

So for all of you, as you approach the last few weeks of the semester, are you creating a portfolio you are proud of? It is not too early to begin thinking of a cover, a theme, the organization. You are producing a product of your own writing, one that you are willing to present to the world.

What are you offering the world?

That will be on display the last week of school, before finals. At that time, you will receive your final semester grade. It will be determined like this:

You will arrange a time during the week of December 11 through 15 for a parent or guardian to come to the classroom and the three of us will go over your portfolio. This will only take fifteen minutes or so. Then, as your parent or guardian looks through your portfolio, this person will determine which papers are acceptable and which are not. I will be there to answer any questions either of you might have.

Naturally, this will not be the time for a close reading of your portfolio, simply a scan through while explaining the project.

NOTE: If there are pages in your portfolio you would prefer kept quiet, separate those pages and present them to me in a separate folder. I will add the acceptable ones to your grade.

I am attempting to notify your parents of this procedure. If there are difficulties in arranging a meeting, then we can make other arrangements. Please assist by steering them to our website, www.cartebox.com.

So you see? In the end we all come home to our makers. I'm coming to terms with my spiritual maker, (euphemism for getting old), and we all have to come home to momma sometime, or somebody, or wherever we are truly ourselves. "Here, Mom, here's my portfolio, here Dad, Brother, Sister, Cousin, Step-Mom, Step-Dad, Uncle, Aunt, Grandma, Grandpa, I hope somewhere in that mix there is somebody there for you, if not, you better knock on somebody's door. Mine's always open. Everybody needs help from time to time.

So for today's prompt, I want you to think of that person you will present your portfolio to. (This can be scary stuff. I get that.) Write a letter, some thoughts, about or to that person imagine this person flipping through your pages. What matters to a writer is the reader.

Do you get it? When you read, you are being cared for.

Readers always have somebody there for them.

And writers always have somebody to talk too

See you tomorrow,

Mr. Collins