Essay 2: Analyzing the Things You Carry

☐ proposal (1/2 page, 1 pt.) due Thursday, September 19
☐ reading notes (2 pages, 2 pts.) due Tuesday, September 24
☐ outline (2 pages, 1 pt.) due Thursday, September 26
☐ rough draft (4 pages, 2 pts.) due Thursday, October 3
☐ meet with a tutor (or me) by Wednesday, October 9
☐ final draft (4+ pages, 10 pts.) due Thursday, October 10

All of these must be typed using MLA format.

Topic

Tim O’Brien’s story “The Things They Carried” describes in vivid detail the military gear, personal belongings, and feelings that the soldiers carry with them: “The things they carried were largely determined by necessity” (2).

After rereading the story, “The Things They Carried,” choose your backpack, book bag, or purse (and pockets) to examine. Write an essay (4+ pages, 7+ paragraphs) about the things that you carry. Describe and categorize the items in great detail, and explain the significance of those items in your life. What do those items reveal about you as a student or person? What hopes and fears do those items reveal?

In addition, compare and contrast the things that you carry with the story “The Things They Carried” (1-25). You should use point-by-point or alternating subject-by-subject format for the essay. Please include a photo or hand-drawn illustration of your items along with your essay.

Audience & Purpose

Assume that your reader has read The Things They Carried but is not familiar with you or your things. The goal of your essay is to connect yourself, your things, and Tim O’Brien’s writing.

Structure & Content Checklist

_____ Write an informative yet creative title for your essay; write an inventive hook as well.
_____ Make sure your thesis statement previews your essay’s points very specifically.
_____ It is definitely acceptable to use first person in this essay.
_____ Organize your supporting paragraphs carefully (point by point or alternating subject by subject).
_____ Include clear topic sentences and transitions.
_____ You must incorporate quotations / descriptive details in every supporting paragraph.
_____ Write a strong conclusion that wraps up the essay.
_____ Edit and proofread your sentences so that they are as clear and correct as possible.
_____ Include a properly formatted works cited page.
_____ Format your paper properly: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font such as Times New Roman.

Required Reading Assignments

• The Things They Carried (1-81) but especially (1-25)
• Writing & Revising (41-55) (73-81) (60-68) (83-100) (119-121) (125-129)
Process – You must complete and submit all of the following with the final draft:

- typed final draft & photo or illustration
- tutoring receipt or my comments**
- typed rough draft(s) & photo or illustration
- peer review comments
- typed outline
- typed reading notes
- typed proposal & any other prewriting notes

** If you are unable to see a tutor for this essay, you may visit my advice hours.

- Bring this assignment sheet, your notes, your drafts, *The Things They Carried*, and *Writing & Revising* with you when you see a tutor at the Language Success Center.
- Please feel free to visit my advice hours (MTW 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & Th 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) or email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.

Proposal Questions – 1 page, typed, due Thursday, September 19

1. What do you plan to write about?
2. What categories might you use? How do your items relate to the book?
3. What do you want your reader to learn or understand from your essay?
4. What obstacles or challenges might you face as you write? How will you overcome those?
5. When & where will you write the essay?

Reading Notes – 2 pages, typed, due Tuesday, September 24

1. List as many examples as possible that might go into the essay.
2. Find 4 relevant quotations from *The Things They Carried*.
   
   Type the quotations and analyze them in as much detail as possible.