Ashland English 101 Essay #4

Argument: Saying Nothing in 500 Words

Begin by reading "How to Say Nothing in 500 Words" by Paul McHenry Roberts (available through Blackboard).

Your Writing Task

Choose one (and only one!) of the following prompts:

1. Do you think the "D" allegedly earned by the essay on college football is overly harsh or is it deserved? Justify your answer.

2. Roberts seems to have a low opinion of the writing abilities of the typical college freshman. Is he right? And if he is, does his advice hit the mark?

3. Roberts has taken two risks. One is that students will misread this as an essay opposing football (it's not). The other is that they will miss the humor. Write an essay in which you discuss how this essay is tailored to its target audience. (Of course, to do this, you will have to figure out who the target audience is and what kind of writing will appeal to them.)

Mechanical Details

Length: Minimum 1650 words not counting title, your name, etc. That's about a five-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 2475. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade.

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1" margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper:

- This paper (and all the following papers in this course) will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Instructions are available on the Blackboard website for this course.

Due Dates

1. **Peer Editing:** Friday, November 8, 2019
2. **Final copy:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019

This essay is worth 125 points.

Peer editing counts as a quiz. You get credit if you show up in person with two printed copies of your rough draft (at least 90% of the assigned length). Do not expect us to hand your laptop around the room and make comments on your word processing file. Take a deep breath and actually print these out on paper.

- No credit for sending your copy by email. No credit for bringing it in later.