Assignment #1: Summary/Response/Reflection

The ability to articulate what others argue and what you believe is essential for college writing, critical thinking, and civic engagement. This assignment is designed to help you become more proficient in summarizing others and responding to their ideas.

Toward this end, your task for this assignment is to write a **1,000 – 1,200 word** Summary/Response/Reflection essay, “triggered” by **ONE** aspect of Anne Lammott’s essay, “Shitty First Drafts.” *(Do not attempt to respond to ALL of the points made in her essay.)*

**Summary**

Near the beginning of the essay (the first or second paragraph) you must summarize the essay and make mention of the specific point to which you will respond (your trigger). Use what you’ve learned from class (and your notes) to help you develop an effective summary. **Your summary will likely lead nicely into a mention of your trigger, which will likely lead nicely into your thesis statement, which should clearly articulate your specific response.**

**Response**

The bulk of your essay will consist of your response, which will take the form of a narrative. *That is,* you’ll be telling a non-fiction (real) story (similar to *The Other Wes Moore*) to support your response. You will use evidence from your personal experience (or experience with which you’re especially familiar), as well as the author’s work. Be sure to give some context to the story (i.e. description, setting, etc.) and **include many sensory details.** At a strategic moment in your essay, you must **include at least one metaphor or simile.**

**Reflection**

In addition to telling your story, you will also reflect on the importance of that story. What did you learn from the experience? Why is it important? This will function as your conclusion.

**Additional Guidelines**

1. Format your essay according to the “Formatting Directions” handout.
2. If you do quote from the essay, do so sparingly. No more than 10% of your essay should consist of quoted material; when referring to the author’s ideas, paraphrase instead.
3. Give your essay a relevant, attention-grabbing title.

**Due Dates**

A peer review session for this assignment will take place on **Monday, September 28.** The Instructor Draft will be due to Bb before midnight on **Monday, October 5.**