**Topic:  *“History” of the Reader OR Writer***

**Assignment**: Sketch some of the seminal / germinal historical highlights (with critical-dialectical-analytic reflective investigation) of yourself in ONE of the following configurations or characterizations: 1) as a Reader; OR, 2) as a Writer. ***Consider some of the basic modes of historical consciousness as you explore the topic: historical, nostalgic, archaeological, genealogical. Short definitions of these modes are included below.***

The prompts below are meant to stimulate thought. Please do not feel obligated to answer questions….ever! Contextualize and Textualize your own problem and analysis.

For example, as a reader: what type of cognitive process does reading represent in your life, what were your first books, your favorite and least favorite books/genres, your “relationship” with reading, your reading evolution from the printed page to GoogleNation…. Do you read for information only? And of course, the ultimate question: Is Reading a Dead Technology? A Dead Metaphor? A 20th Century Artifact? Is Reading Fascism, Mind Control, Zombie Therapy (i.e. does Reading oppress the individual); or, is Reading Democracy, Love, Catharsis, Orgasm? (i.e. does Reading liberate the individual?)

For example, as a writer: when did you first start writing? What value did it provide you? Did you (do you) like writing? What type of writing do you like or dislike? Do you write for information only? How has your writing evolved from the material to the digital age? How has Twitter, Facebook, Email re-placed, mis-placed, dis-placed your authorial identity. And of course, the ultimate question: Is Writing Dead? And did we kill it? Is Writing Fascism, Mind Control, Zombie Therapy (i.e. does Writing oppress the individual); or, is Writing Democracy, Love, Catharsis, Orgasm? (i.e. does Writing liberate the individual?)

**Format:**

**A) Standard Critical Essay Form: 750-1,000 words.**

1) Critical Intervention = Contextualization, Textualization, Thesis/Analytic Blueprint, Evidence

2) MLA Style (double-spaced, 12pt. font, parenthetical reference, 1in. margins). NOTE: no parenthetical reference required for this assignment.

3) Include a critical title that reflects context, content and thesis.

4) Historical Modes:

a) Historical: Broad, external, rational-centered view of standard evidence: texts, landmarks, chronologies, chronicles with attendant reflection and analysis of these landmarks

b) Nostalgic: romantic, sentimental, emotional. Emphasizes character and story, usually a Hollywood/Garden of Eden narrative arc.

c) Archaeological: Following the metaphor of the archaeological dig, begin with a fragment of reading/writing narrative and piece together a story from seemingly disparate parts.

d) Genealogical: For the historian who wants to examine contradiction and complexity of competing and alternative discourses. Examining reading and writing outside the traditional narrative parameters of family, school, education, work, etc…