

**Along with Writing Project Four, you are required to turn in one of the following pieces of writing:**

### **Writing Project Revision Assignment**

As we have discussed, a revision is more than just running Spell Check, changing a few words here and there, and pressing print. The revision process is a chance to reimagine your paper in light of the comments you have received from me and others; it is how you can show your growth as a writer and thinker. After looking over my comments on one of your previous Writing Projects, and possibly visiting a consultant at the Writing Center, write a **global revision** of that essay. This means that you must rethink and refine the argument, evidence, analysis, structure, and prose of the essay. If you have questions about the comments I've made on your previous Writing Projects, come see me. And if you want a good series of questions to ask yourself as you revise, see the "Self Review Questions" handouts we've used on several occasions.

### **Revised and Expanded Writer's Notebook Entry**

Throughout the semester, you have been spending a little time each week writing informal Writer's Notebook entries about the values and beliefs in play and at stake in contemporary society. As part of your Final Portfolio, you may select one of your Writer's Notebook entries from the first three phases of the course and revise and expand it (from about 450-600 words to between 1000-1200). For many of you, this will mean taking a piece that was largely observational and making it more argumentative. Your new short essay should be answering appropriated versions of one of the following questions:

- **Why does the phenomenon you noticed and analyzed in your original entry matter?**
- **What does it tell us about our contemporary values?**
- **What does it tell us about a certain segment of society (USC students, educators, politicians, etc.), and why is this important?**
- **Why does this phenomenon show us the importance of critically thinking about human values and belief systems?**

These are just a few of the ways you can think about this revision assignment, but all ask that you move beyond your initial analysis to consider the deeper meanings of cultural phenomena. You should have started this process in your original entry, but now is your chance to show your facility with the concepts we've discussed in this course, and also the ideas you've come across on your own.

Excerpt from syllabus that explains the Writer's Notebook Entry:

### **Writer's Notebook Assignment**

In her essay "On Keeping a Notebook," Joan Didion says that she writes in her notebook in order to "[r]emember what it was to be me" (136). The point of this writing is not to produce an "accurate factual record," but rather to capture a sense of how she was interpreting the world around her at the time (133). This semester, you are required to complete **one 400-600-word entry** per week (three to five per course phase) that you will turn in along with the final draft of your corresponding Writing Projects. The subject of these entries can be *anything* related to human values and belief systems (a cultural object, something a teacher said, an uncomfortable or intriguing social situation, a contentious news item). However, your task here is not to summarize or treat this notebook like a personal diary. Instead, you must write about **the ethical implications and significance** of the subject, situation, or concept. For instance, you might write about the ethical pros and cons of social media's ability to distribute information (and misinformation) rapidly. Or, you might think about what the kinds of construction projects currently going on at USC tell us about the school's priorities and values. You can also use these entries to work through questions and concepts you need to answer in order to write better, more comprehensive Writing Projects. Whatever you write about, I want you to focus on the *whys*: Why does this matter? Why is this ethically questionable? Why did this seem worth writing about? **In other words, make a claim about something and try to back it up.**

These Writer's Notebook entries constitute one-third of your Ancillary Writing grade, meaning that they are worth **5% of your total course grade**. You will only get anything out of this assignment if you take it seriously.