Mr. Ayers

ATC

Grade 9 English I

“My Flashback” Writing Assignment

08/29/13

\* It should be noted that students helped to define the parameters of this assignment in a class discussion.

Assignment Description:

As we read *Kindred*, by Octavia Butler, we are investigating various literary devices employed by the author to achieve different effects. This assignment focuses on the concept of flashback in a work of literature. A flashback is a shift in time within the narrative of a story in which the action moves from the present time to the past, and then back again. An example would be a story about a teenager who “flashes back” to an experience in childhood and then returns to the present time, where he or she is a teenager. In this assignment, students will write short works of fiction that employ the use of flashback.

General Guidelines for Fiction Writing:

All works of quality fiction share a few common qualities, and this writing assignment should have them too:

-Characters: These are the “people” who inhabit the story. There should usually be more than one, so that they can interact. There should also be character development, meaning that the characters (especially the protagonist, or main character) should change in some significant way by the end of the story.

-Plot: This is the action of the story. Something interesting should be happening!

-Conflict: There should be some kind of tension or struggle going on that keeps the reader interested.

-Rising action: The story should build up as we go, like a house going up, starting with the foundation and working up to the roof.

-Climax: This is when the action/plot/conflict comes to its highest point and finds some kind of resolution.

-Falling action: This does not appear in all stories, but it is common. It is when there is a little bit of action after the climax of the story. Most of our questions or concerns have been resolved, and the falling action helps bring the story to a satisfying conclusion.

Specific Creative Guidelines for This Assignment:

So, the elements above should be found in nearly every fictional story. In class, we developed some choices to help guide you through this particular assignment:

-Flashback: the story must begin in one time, flash back to the past at least once, and then return to present time.

-The flashback you use might be based on a happy or interesting memory from your own past.

-Your flashback (and the story) might be based on a “first time;” in other words, an event that marked a transition for you, like the first time you ever rode a bike.

-The flashback (and the story) may be complete fiction, meaning that it is not based on your life at all.

Specific Technical Guidelines for this Assignment:

This (and most) writing assignment must be:

-Typed

-Double spaced

-Times New Roman

-Twelve point font

-In top left corner: Name (first and last), date, class period, name of instructor

-In top right corner: student’s last name only, followed by the page number (Jones 1, Jones 2, etc.)

-Centered below the above information: the title (in this case – “My Flashback”)

In this particular assignment, you should:

-Write a minimum of five paragraphs

-Write the point of view you have chosen (1st, 2nd, or 3rd person) below your title.

**IF YOU TRULY HAVE NO ACCESS TO A COMPUTER:**

You may hand write this assignment, but it must be extremely neat, double spaced, and follow all the other formatting guidelines. If this is the case for you, we need to talk about solutions. Typing assignments is very important, and will become more so as you draw closer to your college years. We need you typing.

Due Date:

Wednesday 09/04