FYEC 103-Crossing Cultures
Journal
an ongoing, semester-long exercise in writing

Using a bound notebook, sit down for a few minutes a day and write something.

What you WRITE should be a brief response to and/or synopsis of readings, discussions in the class, shows that you see, and similar events. These should not be FORMAL, but should be complete thoughts and relatively well organized. I want to know what you learn, and what you think. Think of this as a cross between a diary and notes you might take in class. You should feel free to comment as you like, but back up statements with “proof.” Think about the “why’s.” Why did you or didn’t you like the acting in that play (or movie…) you just saw. Why should you have to learn about what some dead greek guy thought was needed in drama 25 centuries ago? How long each of these comments become is up to you, but shoot to average at least one page each. Don’t fill it up with junk. Some can be shorter, some longer as the mood strikes.

You will be graded on depth of thought and how much your writing improves over the semester. DO NOT TRY TO DO BATCHES OF WRITING THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR JOURNAL IS DUE. Not only is that painfully obvious to me, it does you absolutely no good, which is the point in the first place.

In order to get a “C” on your Journal, you will need at least the following:

- **Notes**
  I expect to find all of the required readings discussed in your writing. That includes the plays we are reading. Note that you CAN break these up into more than one writing session. Comment on each ACT of the plays, for example.

- **Plays**
  Use your journal to record initial thoughts about the plays you SEE this semester. These can then be used as a basis for your formal papers to turn in. There will be AT LEAST 4 of these by the end of the semester, three from RMC productions, and one outside event.

- **Comments**
  “Shop work was exciting today because…” ; “Boy, that guest speaker in class was really interesting because…” ; “I get so bored when we watch videos because…” ; “I can’t believe the guy I sat next to at the play snapped his gum all the way through. It was rude because…”

  Comment especially on relationships discovered between your two FYEC classes.
  - Actually feel free to comment on any class(es)- it doesn’t have to be just about this class- ALL fields tie into theatre somehow. Just make the connection. Comment on your blind date and how the jerk talked all the way through the play you went to see.
  - Comment on life- “All the world is a stage…” Are we all merely players? Is theatre Art? Is theatre life? Is life theatre? What is the meaning of life? 49? How does theatre help you understand life? Or does it? Remember that there are no right or wrong ideas or thoughts here, there are only those that are supportable, workable, and comfortable— or not. Make your point. But make the Crossing Cultures point...

If you want better than a “C” on your Journal grade, keep writing; but BETTER is more important than MORE. The idea here is to explore your own thoughts, and the connection theatre may have to your life.

Your journal will be turned in several times during the semester for comments and grading. Check your syllabus for due dates.

So take a few minutes a day, have some fun, and write a thought in your journal.