**Occasional Papers**

**(Or, What Exactly is an OP?)**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of writing occasional papers is two-fold. First, to find occasions to write. These occasions may come in many different forms. Perhaps something huge happens like a birth of a new nephew or finally getting your driver’s license or the death of a family member or friend. Or these moments may be very small and seemingly insignificant, like observations you make in the grocery store or the smell of a familiar place or a sign you saw while driving. The point is this is your forum to find something meaningful and write about it. Second, to experiment with your writing. Play with language. Find your voice. Develop your style. While you are still writing for an academic audience, this is a personal piece. The more you attempt to make purposeful stylistic choices with different devices and techniques, the more likely it is that you will not only come to be a better writer, but you will also deepen your understanding of literary techniques and become more adept at recognizing their impact on both the fiction and non-fiction that you read.

**Requirements:**

* 1 ½ - 2 pages
* 11 point, plain font, double spaced
* MLA heading
* Cover a single moment + universal truth
* At least one sound device, highlighted and labeled
* At least one literary device, highlighted and labeled
* Read aloud in front of the class
* Submit to turnitin.com
* Turn in a hard copy

**Due date:**

* One each six weeks
* Weeks 1-2 = eligible for full credit
* Week 3 = -10 points
* Week 4 = -20 points
* Week 5 = -30 points
* Week 6 = -30 points

**Respect:**

* School appropriate; show respect for me, your classmates, and yourself
* Respect the privacy and integrity of others in your class, keeping things that are obviously sensitive within the boundaries of it.

**Student writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Block:\_\_\_\_**

**Six Weeks: 1 2 3 4 5 6**

**OP Time Frame/Max Point Value:**

**Week(s) 1-2/50 3/40 4/30 5-6/20**

1. Presented aloud to class: 10
2. Submitted to turnitin.com: 5
3. Narrative (or poem w/prior teacher approval) about a specific moment/relationship/experience: 5
4. Literary devices (at least 2) present, highlighted, and labeled: 5 3
5. Presentation practiced, polished, articulate, and audible throughout: 5 3 1
6. Clear voice of writer: 5 3 1
7. Proper Length (1 ½ to 2 pages): 5
8. Limited errors in mechanics: 5 3 1
9. Reflective conclusion: 5 3 1

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: