English 100
Essay 1: Summary
*Rereading America*, “Introduction: Thinking Critically, Challenging Cultural Myths” pp 1-16

**After rereading** the introduction to *Rereading America*, write a 3-page summary of the chapter, *in your own words*, moving through it slowly, section by section from start to finish. You will of course need to read the sample summary documents I have included in this week's lesson also, so that you will be adequately prepared for the assignment.

**Note** that the summary instructions I have given you in those documents explain how to write shorter, paragraph length summaries, but your summary needs to be longer – 3 pages – which means you will need to cover more of the individual themes and details in the chapter, but otherwise all the other rules of summary writing still apply:

- **DO NOT** quote the text in these summaries – summaries are a place for you only to **explain** what you have read, and only *in your own words*, not the words of the editors. The whole point of a summary is to simply report what you see, what has occurred in a piece of writing but **NOT** to advance or argue an opinion about it (that’s the kind of evaluative work you do in a critical analysis, not a simple summary).
- Report every important point: You should work very hard to imagine an ignorant audience for your paper, one that will not know what is in the book introduction until you physically report it.
- **DO NOT** evaluate or analyze the text here – just explain what the text *is* and what and how it talks about it.
- Use only **3rd person speech** (e.g. *he, she, it, they, the authors, the reader,* etc.) (**DO NOT** use *you, your, or I*), and write only in the present tense. I will return papers that use 1st or 2nd person speech or are written in the past tense, mark them as late and ask you to redo them.

**Type up your summary** in Microsoft Word or a similar word processing program. Make sure that you spend adequate time proofreading it for clarity, spelling, and proper sentence construction. Read your work aloud to yourself in a quiet place, or have someone else you trust read it to you – this is a very good way of catching mistakes that your eye can easily miss when rereading your draft work on the computer or on the page. Please make sure your paper formatting matches exactly the model I have provided in the “Sample Format Page rules” document on the website.

**Good luck.** Remember to start on this assignment early, and ask questions in class as much as you need to so that you understand exactly what I want from you.