**English 250** Spring 2019

**Assignment 1 (A1)**

**Due: 5pm Friday 1/18**

**What is the purpose of this assignment?**

This assignment 1) helps you and your instructor understand where you currently stand as a writer so as to best aid in your writing development throughout the semester, and 2) prompts you to investigate topics relevant to this class.

**Please answer the following prompts** (400-500 words total)

1. What is your previous experience as a writer? What are your strengths as a writer? **(50-150 words)**
2. First: define “media literacy” in your own words. Second: explain the impact of media literacy (or lack thereof) in the age of the internet, in your opinion. **(100-200 words)**
3. Choose one: a) examine some of your own biases and explain how they shape the way you consume news or other media; b) describe, in general, why understanding one’s own biases might be important to their consumption of news or other media. **(100-200 words)**

**Notes on A1**:

Follow general formatting guidelines (ie. size 12 font, Times New Roman font, 1’’ margins).

This assignment is ungraded, but required to pass the course. Your instructor will never grade you based on your opinions, but rather *how well* you articulate and show reasoning and evidence to support your opinions.

**What if I want more help?**

Feel free to talk to your instructor before or after class, during office hours, or via email. It is encouraged to schedule an appointment at the Writing and Media Center (<http://www.wmc.dso.iastate.edu/>).