English

ENG 111 – 12G

Memo

August 2002

Writing Experience & Eng 111

by

### Ray Thomas

#### TO: Phyllis Cox – Instructor

## FROM: Ray Thomas

## SUBJECT: Final Exam/Evaluation Memo

**DATE: 10th August 2002**

**My Writing** – I enjoy writing, I also enjoy reading. I like to write about subjects and in a style that I think I’m going to enjoy reading. I’m usually pleased with my finished work, though it sometimes takes me a while to get it right.

* **Subject** - For every essay I’ve written for this course I’ve had at least three false starts. I’ve abandoned the pieces because they didn’t seem “right”, and I couldn’t improve on them. I’ve started essays on “Americans Abroad”, “Computer Based Chat-Rooms” and “Problems for Modern Day Immigrants” as well as others.
* **Grammar** – My biggest problems in this area are comma splicing and sentence fragmentation.
* **Spelling** – I keep forgetting to use American English instead of British English. Words such as colour and flavour are spelled differently in the US. One good thing about this though is that I’ve dropped a lot of slang from my writing.
* **Reviewing** – If I think I can improve on a piece that I’ve written then I’ll rewrite it. Luckily, as the essays are written using a computer this isn’t too time consuming. The investigative essay “Product Placement” that I did I rewrote nine times before I thought it was ready. I did slightly better with the persuasive essay “Direct Mail Marketing”, that only required four rewrites.
* **Research** – I read several hundred pages of information to write the investigative and persuasive essay before finally picking the information I wanted to use.
* **Length** – Put together, the maximum required length of the two main essays for this course was twelve pages. The combined length of my first drafts was nineteen pages. I always seem to have things I want to write about, the problem is picking the best sections.

**Improvement** – Before I started this course I didn’t know what comma splicing and sentence fragmentation were. I’ve improved in that at least now when Microsoft Word points out that I’ve made an error in these areas, which is happening less frequently, I know how to fix them.

**The Course** – I enjoyed the course. I write a lot for my own pleasure, mostly for my website (http//:members.lycos.co.uk/brisray) which I think now contains around a quarter of a million words, and it was interesting writing about other topics. I didn’t like the group activities much, but that’s because I prefer to work on my own. Everything else in the class I enjoyed. The note in your memo suggests that some students do not like the research papers or they consider them too long. Personally, I enjoyed doing that piece of work and could have written more. If I had to take the class again, I doubt I’d do anything differently that what I did.

**The Future** – Some people have said that I should write an autobiography. They seem to think that I’ve led quite an eventful life and could write it with humor. Now and then I get emails from people that have read my website and who say how much they enjoyed reading it. I’ll sometimes write plots for stories that I think may be interesting but have never followed up on any of them. Perhaps one day I’ll write something with the intention of trying to get it published, but I’ve no definite plans for this.