Okay. Time to get ponderous. This assignment asks you to create a journal or notebook that documents your writing development. To do this, you’ll need to refer to all of the assignments on which you’ve received feedback from me or your peers. Make an entry for each of the assignments that recaps:

- the goals outlined by the prompt
- the improvements suggested by others (consider this in terms of the English 131 Outcomes, especially claim, argument, rhetorical strategies)
- any improvements you might consider making in a revision of the work
- any lingering questions you have about strengths and weaknesses of the paper

Because this is your chronicle of writing development, I encourage you to design it however it will be most useful to you. If you’d like to add information (like check boxes for each of the English 131 Outcomes) or personal reflection (like an estimate of just how frustrating it would be for you to revise the paper to satisfy the English 131 Outcomes come portfolio time), feel free to do so.

In addition for the journal, I’d like for you to make use of your nonverbal skills by creating a visual representation of your writing ability. Use whatever rhetorical strategy makes sense to you: Make a bar chart of your successful achievement of key skills, draw a chronological graph that shows your progression or regression in certain areas, compose thought webs that consider elements in isolation, draw faces next to each Outcome bullet to reflect your feelings of capability, do whatever you need to do to get a picture of how you’ve begun to demonstrate the English 131 Outcomes. Include what you’ve done well so far, but don’t shy away from setting goals for improvement. Our time draws near, so let’s use this as opportunity that will help us make the most of it...

Finally, because faint pencil traceries are bound to confuse on occasion, this journal should serve as an excellent chance to figure out just what all that messy scribbling of mine is saying. If you can’t make sense of it, don’t be afraid to ask me...especially for such ambiguous gems as “Really?” or “Wha?” or “You’ve begun to [blank], but you’ve not [blanked].”