***Writerly Self-Awareness, Confidence and Voice***

I value building your writerly self-awareness, your confidence and voice as a writer. This is an always evolving identity that will be influenced by the professors, topics, peers, and community members with whom you interact and share your writing throughout the next four years at Bates (and beyond). **Writing is empowering.**

***The Writing Process***

I value writing as a process and will provide you with opportunities for brainstorming ideas, topic development, drafting, peer review, teacher feedback and revision. This means you have to be willing to engage in the process, be open to my (and others’) feedback and give yourself time to cook and grow your ideas. Be prepared to sometimes stumble, falter, and fail, and even to get it “just right” while also being willing to start over again with a deeper understanding and a continued willingness to learn more about writing and speaking. **Writing is a challenging, but rewarding (and lifelong) process.**

***Critical Thinking, Metacognition and Reflection***

I value writing as a critical thinking, metacognitive, and reflective practice. Your best thinking can turn into your best writing when you use writing as an essential cognitive, creative, and critical practice. I value writing that shows your deep engagement with the course content of this FYS and will ask you to engage in writing-to-learn *and* writing-to-demonstrate-learning activities. These kinds of activities will ask you to show evidence of your cognitive processes of remembering information, understanding readings, applying theories, analyzing sources, evaluating existing ideas, and creating new ones. **Writing is a means of *doing* critical thinking.**

***Developing Ideas & Synthesizing Those Ideas with New/Others’ Ideas***

I value your development as independent learners who seek to understand and ask questions about the credibility and relevance of sources. I intend to help you examine, critique, and evaluate a compelling and diverse collection of contemporary and historical thinkers and writers--those to whom I introduce you and those you seek out on your own. I value your ability to connect and build upon the ideas of those who’ve come before you (synthesize) and to give them credit when credit is due (cite) in order that you may construct and author your own ideas and arguments with confidence and credibility. **Writing is a conversation.**

***Awareness of Conventions*** *[more Genre/Language-specific than Discipline/Field-specific]*

I value your knowledge of and experiences with the particular and diverse forms of writing (genres) in which you have been required to compose up to now. I value (and want to learn about) the unique myriad of linguistic resources and language skills you have gathered and utilized in your personal, familial, community, and educational experiences and that you have successfully wielded in order to earn your rightful seat in this FYS at Bates College. I seek to build upon your knowledge and expertise to include a wider array of genres and linguistic resources and to guide you well in your first foray into the peculiar, varied, and formidable discourses of the academy. **Writing comes in many forms (genres) and linguistic registers depending on the contexts and purposes for which it is being wielded; writing has power; writing is not neutral.**

***Awareness of Audience & A Sense of Purpose for Texts*** *[in and beyond the FYS]*

I value your ability to know who you are writing for (audience awareness) and to wisely choose a particular form (genre) of writing to meet the expectations and needs of that audience. Knowing your specific and intended audience can help you make the appropriate rhetorical choices for your writing to give it shape, purpose, and force. I intend to offer you opportunities to write for different audiences, with different purposes, in a variety of genres, using a wide array of technologies in order to help you build your rhetorical awareness. **Writing *makes things happen*.**

***Connecting With & Getting to Know Students***

I value getting to know you through your writing. I value connecting with you and learning from you and will honor any and all writing you offer to share with us. I will do my best to respond to your writing with good intention and as an informed and interested reader, not as a judge of character or penalizer of bad ideas or poor grammar. I will give you opportunities to discuss your writing with me, with your peers, and with others who will support and help you grow and refine your thinking. I will offer you choices in your topics and guide you to find ideas that are meaningful to you to write about so that I can also learn from you. **Writing is a deeply human, personal, and social interaction.**