Professor Name: Kathleen McConnell (*name included by request*) **Tutor First Name:** VC

Assignment Name: Constraint-Based Writing Practice **Date Reviewed:** 9/1/20

Writing Assignment Tutor Feedback Purpose: The following reader feedback is designed to help instructors improve their writing assignments before distribution to students by giving instructors feedback from a student's point of view.

Assignment Logistics and Formatting:

*Check the submission form to see if the instructor would like to receive feedback in this area. **If yes,** please write brief notes about what you found; write "not provided--perhaps listed elsewhere" if the information is not included on the assignment sheet. **If no**, omit this section entirely. Often this information is posted on Canvas or the syllabus instead of being provided on the prompt itself.*

- **Assignment due date and late policy:** listed elsewhere

- **Grade criteria**: Fulfill each of the 10 constraints listed; partial credit implied but not explained

- **Percentage of class grad**e: Not listed

- **Citation style (*e.g., APA, IEE, MLA, ASA*)**: listed elsewhere

- **Document guidelines** (*e.g., word count, page limit, margins, font, size, spacing, other special instructions*):
    - Word count: 75 words
    - Sentences: 5, 15 words each
        - 2 sentences must be empirically verifiable; 1 sentence in future tense; 1 sentence makes an interpretive claim; in middle of 3rd sentence, a quote must be integrated seamlessly
            - Quoted material must have been first published the year the student was born
            - The first and last word of the post must be the same word or homonyms
    - Title: One-word noun (special cases like "Mr. Robot" allowed)
    - Text citation for 3rd sentence quoted material at end of post (separate from the post itself)

Task:

Write brief notes about your understanding from the instructions. Write "unsure" if you are uncertain about the answer.

- **Who is the intended audience for this assignment?**
    - The intended audience is students who are currently enrolled in the course corresponding to this prompt.

- **What do you understand is the purpose or goal of this assignment?**
    - The purpose of this assignment is for students to learn to write intentionally and with a goal in mind. Students will learn how to write concisely and therefore meaningfully, which is a skill that they will use for future assignments for this course as well as, ideally, outside of the course.

- **How do you think the assignment should be completed? What needs to be turned in? Please describe the kind of paper you would write in response to this assignment.**
    - As a student, I would be turning in a discussion post on Canvas that discusses an arbitrary, one-word noun in detail. I would have encountered this noun during the day that I write the post. The post would follow the guidelines that I identified in the previous section under "Document guidelines."

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- **What resources can or should be used to complete this assignment? (*e.g., sample/model papers, class textbook, research articles, experiment data, etc.*)**
  - Students should access this page to learn more about constraint-based writing, as indicated by the prompt.

Student Reader Experience:
Write brief notes from your point of view as a student reading this prompt. __Note__: Only give feedback about logistics if the instructor requested feedback in this area on their submission form. Also feel free to link any resources you would recommend to the faculty member.

- **If you were a student in this class, what would you like to know more about? Do you still have any questions about the assignment and what is expected of you? Did anything feel missing?**
  - As a student, I would like to know more about how the professor defines "empirically verifiable" and "interpretive claim." I feel that it would be helpful to give some example sentences to illustrate these points.
  - Additionally, it is unclear from the prompt alone in what format the citation should be made (APA, MLA, etc.).
- **What do you find the most intriguing or interesting part of the assignment?**
  - The most intriguing part of this assignment is its rigidity. I think that all writers could benefit from practicing constraint-based writing -- many people struggle with wordiness and conciseness in their writing.
- **How many hours do you think it would take a student to complete this assignment adequately (*e.g., 4 - 5 hours*)?**
  - I imagine it would take a student 1-2 hours to complete this assignment. However, more time might be needed for students who have difficulty finding a suitable noun and thus cannot move on to the writing process. Additionally, students might need time to revise their drafted sentences to follow the criteria.
- **What are one to three concrete suggestions for how to improve the clarity or organization of the assignment's instructions?**
  - To avoid questions from students, I would suggest explicitly defining what "empirically verifiable" and "interpretive claim" mean. Providing some sample sentences that reflect these ideas would also be helpful.
  - Communicating to students what format their citation should be in would eliminate variations in answers and may make it easier to check if the citations are done properly when grading.