Diagnostic Essay:

This essay serves three purposes: (1) to give me a general idea of the class’s ability with writing; (2) to help me spot students who may need additional help or tips before the major papers; and (3) to help me learn about each student.

This particular sheet will not be graded as part of a letter grade, but I will use it to diagnose students who might have particular problem areas, so do your best with it! Try and type an organized, clear paper in the remaining time. Make it one page long with double-spacing and normal paragraphs. If you finish early, you can use the remainder of the class time proofreading, polishing and developing your discussion.

Main Question: What do I need to know about you as a writer to help you improve? Tell me about yourself. Introduce yourself to me.

Specific Prompts to Help You Think:

(1) Where and how have you done most of your writing in the past? Tell me about your past writing, where you come from, etc.

(2) Do you consider yourself a persuasive writer? An effective writer? Why or why not?

(3) What specific areas do you have trouble with? (i.e., what areas of punctuation or grammar, what areas of organization or brainstorming, what areas with coming up with ideas, or what areas in terms of thesis or argument?)