Unit 2 Ideas, Plans, Previous Activities:

I begin every class with a ten minute writing exercise. In the past, questions have centered around current praxis in the classroom, or things that I want the students to think about. (i.e. What is process? What is your personal writing process? What do you like to write about? What has been your experience with writing? Etc.). I also ask them things that are directly relevant to the work at hand, so last class, they wrote a reaction piece to Characteristics of Demagoguery. Next class I will open with something like “Identify a demagogue and tell me why they fit such a classification.” These are low stakes assignments I utilize to pad the students’ grades and also get their brains up and running first thing in the morning. Again, as the practice is only ten minutes, I don’t expect any more than a page of writing. I will be asking pertinent questions throughout unit two as I did with Hari in unit 1.

Tuesday I am spending the day outlining with them and maybe getting into paragraph development (samples). I want to do another practice sample in class (last class we took apart Alex Jones using PRM)…and this time I think I will use Bin Laden’s speech.

There will be a part of a class dedicated to go over some MLA formatting techniques as they seem to be having issues with this. I will use Keys for Writers on the doc cam to best illustrate what I am looking for.

I’m also considering playing Kahoots or something similar by asking for definitions of things like polarization and devil speak, etc. I am still playing with this. I want them to have a fun and engaging day with the material before they conference with me.

The conferences will be longer than I have made them in the past (I usually only ever did 15 minute meetings), as they will be 20 minutes with five minutes between each meeting as a buffer for more time with any student. I think this one on one time is crucial for this essay as I left aspects of my prompt open for them, and I feel they will best benefit from one on one.