Unsettling Literacy 3/28

3:00-05 pm: Hello, before we get started I want to do a semi quick whip around of introductions because I don’t know everyone’s name, pronouns etc. As we go around the room I would like for everyone to state their preferred name, pronouns, what brought you to the class and the color of your mood today. The last part of our intro can be a sound, texture, or any materialized sensation you can imagine to embody your mood if a color does not fit. I have put a wheel up on the board as a point of inspiration, please don’t feel limited to these options.

**I shall start: Olivia, she/her, *why I wanted to work with Anne and Jody,***

3:05- 08 //After intros:

It’s nice to meet all of you and I want to thank you for your honesty in your reflections. I was inspired by a lot of them to pose this question about positionality and to begin imagining a form of writing that would recognize the tension of writing itself, as an inaccessibility medium for a multitude of reasons.

**Before** we get started I want to have a real check in on where people are.

**Goal:** Thinking through ways to mitigate power through experimental writing practices. \*identifying this takes work on the part of the writer to create the space for this transaction to take place because it is not yet present.

**Framework:** I think when talking about activism it is important to understand your position within the context you are existing. When I speak of your brand it has everything to do with your positionality and your agenda as an activist. How do you move through space and enlighten yourself to work towards the mountain top? For today’s class I want us to think about our positions under a deeply entrenched Anti-Black capitalist framework. This is not a day to plan the solution, especially one that implies economic reform without acknowledging the need to change our social sphere. I approach this work through Black, queer, feminist theory that advocates for the liberation of all that would take longer than our time today to review.

***Last week during your drawing activity, one group had referenced needing to stop, look, back and center your work around those who are the foundation to the oppressive structures in place. This is also recognizing the depth within an intersectional framework that I am deeply thankful to Black, queer, wimmin who contextualize our world.***

The fear of structural change to our social order often deters people from tackling it head on. The US democracy gives the illusion that change is constantly happening, and must be sanctioned. Not a lie, but also not the full truth. The revision of law in the past has only expunged written racism from our national laws and invited in new techniques to write in race based, labor exploitation as you all have learned. Complacency in directly addressing the transnational violence exerted from anti-Black racism is not activism. I am asking those who are committing to being an activist to commit to consistently strategizing ways to ensure **long lasting** change. Activism also take very different forms and should to meet the needs of each person’s agenda. Mine exists in some of my TLI work and I felt compelled to supply that as an outlet for some of you who are returning to BMC and want to be involved in restructuring the academy through academic partnerships.

***Whew…now to the nitty gritty of our work today:***

**I want us to begin thinking about what some of your struggles have been in writing your reflections, or any paper for that matter.** Do you feel you are representing an authentic self in your writing? How does that self, take shape in the tone of your work? If not, what would you need to change to feel like you could speak freely in your writing? **Let’s take a couple moments to write down a couple quick responses to these questions.**

 Pair Share/ Group share (?) 7-8 minutes. Switch mid-way through

**Thank you-s. These are important.**

Web Event 2: What does activism mean to you now. In asking this question we are inviting as wide a spectrum of possibilities as you can imagine. Drawing on at least one of the texts we have studied together**, focus in particular on your role at the praxis site**. What questions do you have now on activism.  What questions do you have and how might you approach addressing them.

I have bolded this section of the prompt because this is where we really want you all to think about the identities you carry into your placements. What things do you think you want to address within this paper?

**Self reflect in silence 5 minutes**

This workshop will revisit the restricting the structure of writing formalities to reflect the way you are feeling about your praxis and writing without having to explicitly say it. We are going to code our papers. Each of you will construct a colored key to represent how you are feeling about x aspect of your identified position. That color will then be applied to the paper either in a font change in the applied sections, tinting the page, or circling sections that embody the sensation you identified in through your color selection.

This is a lot of work. The work it takes to format your paper will be reciprocated in the work Anne and Jody will do to read it. While this is an exercise for you all to recognize the simultaneous occurrences in our day to day life, and strategy needed to write yourself into spaces, it is an exercise for Anne and Jody as well. They will have to look back to 1. Understand the lens in which you have been viewing this work and 2. the complexities to your experiences.

Lets work

Closing for final questions