

Week 13 RAW Prompts

For each of the questions posed compose your response in the box below the question. Make sure to take note of the assigned word count for each. For criteria of evaluation, make sure to review the “Submission Policy” for this assignment on pp. 4-5 & 7 of our course syllabus.

Make sure to **SAVE** this document to your computer *before* you upload your completed RAW Prompts to Canvas. If you simply download this work sheet, fill it out without SAVING, and upload, the sheet will be blank. If this happens, it may impact your grade. So, **make sure to save your work often!**

1. Writer and teacher Donald Murray once said, “Maple syrup is the product of boiling thirty or forty gallons of sap to get one gallon of syrup, and in writing there’s a great deal more sap that needs to be boiled down.” What does this mean? (at least 100 words)

This applies specifically to editing I would say. It just means that in when writing, you have to write everything in order to find what’s good, and editing is the process by which you delete what isn’t necessary. So many amazing novels and films began with a 700 page book that goes down to a 400 page book or a 350 page script that goes down to a 120 page script. This is so necessary because writing it all and taking things out shows you what is necessary. My mom always described it like this: If carving a bear out of a log, first you take a chainsaw and make big movements sweeping out huge chinks, then you take out a smaller tool where your movements are more calculated, and by the end of the process you are only using a little knife. But, if you started with the knife you wouldn’t get anywhere, and if you tried to only use a saw, you would cut out necessary ending details. A story is the same way, when reducing it at first, you need to attack plot and form (chainsaw), then re-tie things together (medium tool), and then refine little things like grammar, sentence structure, and things like character names.

2.

2. Take one page of your current essay (either one from your current Essay #3 (can be from your past RAW prompt in which you essay may be based), or one page from Project #2) and rewrite it using Lesson #8 (Concision, found in Week 10) (copy and paste the paragraphs into the box, then edit). Make sure to highlight or leave comments where you made edits. Or if you find it easier, enable the “Track Changes” for this answer so I can see the edits.*

(From Project #2)

In an article entitled, “Natural Disaster Preparedness in a Multi-Hazard Environment: Characterizing the Sociodemographic Profile of Those Better (Worse) Prepared”, in the journal *PLoS One*, the Atacama Region of Chile is used to demonstrate different levels of preparedness among differing demographics. The article reads, “The combination of human and economic losses, together with reconstruction costs, makes natural disasters both a humanitarian and an economic problem.” ~~The article explains that in the Atacama region, men are generally more prepared for floods than women due to economic and employment differences.~~ This is why empowering *all kinds* of families to make plans for their homes and families in case of an emergency is so vital to the success of everyone. Because families have more incentive to regard their home ~~with care~~ than any other entity, it is ~~so important~~ **vital** that governing bodies put the power in *their hands*.

~~Along these same lines,~~ in *A Paradise Built in Hell*, Rebecca Solnit recounts stories of a San Francisco café that made life possible for many during the time of the ~~San Fransiseo~~ Earthquake in 1906. ~~I am going to use this section because it breaths a breath of humanity into what can often become a study of mere numbers.~~ It offers an interesting example of relatively unrelated individuals taking care of one-another in a time of crisis. And doing this ~~so~~ selflessly in a time when the Government was clearly bracing for these neighbors and families turning against one another. She writes, “Like more recent disasters, San Francisco in 1906 highlighted how preexisting inequality shaped resilience in the face of a devastating event, what hazards call vulnerability. Despite its utility, vulnerability can convey a sense of static inevitability of unequal conditions, and it provides little space for the agency of disempowered

populations.”(85). Here Solnit is explaining how disempowered peoples can get the social attention they need in order to make changes amongst themselves. So not only can these disasters not be as devastating as we might be inclined to assume, but they can even bring *long-term* good if the acting bodies react well. Let’s take a closer look at this idea around the same disaster Solnit explores.

3.

3. Now take that fully revised page and revise once more based on Lesson #9 (Shape). Do the same as above to document the changes.*

(From Project #2)

In an article entitled, “Natural Disaster Preparedness in a Multi-Hazard Environment: Characterizing the Sociodemographic Profile of Those Better (Worse) Prepared”, in the journal *PLoS One*, the Atacama Region of Chile is used to demonstrate different levels of preparedness among differing demographics. The article reads, “The combination of human and economic losses, together with reconstruction costs, makes natural disasters both a humanitarian and an economic problem.” This is why empowering *all kinds* of families to make plans for their homes and families in case of an emergency is so vital to the success of everyone. Because families have more incentive to regard their home more than any other entity, it is vital that governing bodies put the power in *their hands*.

In *A Paradise Built in Hell*, Rebecca Solnit recounts stories of a San Francisco café that made life possible for many during the time of the earthquake in 1906. It offers an interesting example of relatively unrelated individuals taking care of one-another in a time of crisis. And doing this selflessly in a time when the Government was clearly bracing for these neighbors and families turning against one another. She writes, “Like more recent disasters, San Francisco in 1906 highlighted how preexisting inequality shaped resilience in the face of a devastating event, what hazards call vulnerability. Despite its utility, vulnerability can convey a sense of static inevitability of unequal conditions, and it provides little space for the agency of disempowered populations.”