On Being a Cripple Essay Prompt:

Write a three-page rhetorical analysis of Nancy Mairs' "On Being a Cripple," analyzing its framework or logical structure.   First, describe at least three of the essay's rhetorical strategies.   Second, in light of these strategies, address how Mairs approaches her audience through the appeals of pathos, logos, or ethos.   Lastly, identify her purpose and evaluate how successful she is in achieving it per her strategies.

So, this is a 5 paragraph essay.

 The purpose of this assignment is to practice a close rhetorical reading.   Rather than focus on what the essay says (on interpreting its content or meaning), concentrate on how it gets the point across and how effective are its strategies.   Watch out that you do not wind up exploring your sentiments via the disabled.   Do not take a stand regarding either disability issues or politically correct attitudes.   Avoid explicating Mairs' insights about impairment or praising her courage, bluntness, and/or wisdom.   Instead, analyze the essay in light of both how it works and how well it works.   Do not accept (as a foregone conclusion) that this essay is beyond criticism simply because a disabled person wrote it.   Also, do not accept Mairs' self-representation(s) at face value.  In sum: be critical!

                To begin, reread the essay numerous times until you discern the wheels turning behind its powerful emotional content Think about her "frankness": ask yourself how she creates the illusion of it.   Or assess her relationship with her audience: who is she addressing and in what tone? Does this relationship change?   Or consider the way she juxtaposes contradictory information and insights: does any pattern emerge?   Or think about where she places her most succinct statement of purpose: what leverage does she obtain by placing it where she does?   Or evaluate her mode of self-representation.   Does she offer the reader a single, unified vision of herself, or does she delineate multiple images?   If she offers more than one self-representation, what is the relationship between them?   Are all of them equally effective?
Just some ideas…..

Five Vocabulary terms from “On Being a Cripple” must be used correctly AND underlined in your essay.

Now, you must bring for approval, a working thesis. This is due by Wednesday morning,, September 21, 2016, during student hours…give yourself enough time to discuss and possibly rewrite. Until it is acceptable, your essay cannot continue.

Essays are due on or BEFORE 6pm Saturday, September 24, 2016. Remember also, you do not have school on Friday, September 23, sooooo, use this time wisely.

Essays will be turned in at turnitin.com on or before Sept 24th at 6pm – remember the ‘machine’ is EST, so, it states 8pm….remember 6pm El Paso time!