**Braided Essay Assignment**

In a braided essay, the writer has multiple “threads” or “through-lines” of material, each on a different subject. The essay is broken into sections using medial white space, lines of white space on a page where there are no words (much like stanzas in poetry), and each time there is a section break, the writer moves from one “thread” to another. Braided essays take their name from this alternating of storylines, as well as from the threads the story contains; there are usually three, though to have four or two is also possible. Though there is not a strict formula for success, the form usually contains at least one thread that is very personal and based on memory, and at least one thread that is heavily researched. Often, the threads seem very disparate at first, but by the climax of the essay, the threads being to blend together; connections are revealed.

**Assignment:**

Write a braided essay ranging in 1500-2500 words that uses 3 repeating strands. At least one strand must be a personal experience and one strand must be research based. The third strand is up to you. Alternate between the 3 strands equally and in the same order each time (for example: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3). Do not add an overall intro or conclusion.

The researched strand could be: informational, news/current events, historical, about another person, etc. If you do use written sources for information, include a simple reference list at the end of the essay (even just a list of links is ok).

The strands might seem unrelated at first, but think about the theme that connects them and what the reader might gain by reading these strands side by side.

**Format**:

Title your essay

Double space

Include word count in your heading on page 1

Include last name, title, and page number on all pages