**The Micro Essay Assignment**

A micro essay, or flash essay, short short, is a (typically) narrative work that is concise and to the point. It uses imagery and details to relay the meaning, or the main idea of the piece. Typically it's only one or two scenes, and is like a flash of a moment that tells a whole story. The style has become extremely popular, especially in terms of online publication. Usually, micro essays contains the classic story elements: protagonist, conflict, obstacles or complications, and resolution. However, unlike a traditional memoir, the limited word length often forces some of these elements to remain unwritten – that is, hinted at or implied in the written storyline.

We will follow the aesthetic guidelines presented by Rowan’s own *Glassworks Magazine*:

*Flash is often defined by what it isn't: it isn't more than 500 words, it isn't a full narrative, it isn't plot or character or just a poem without line breaks. Flash, however, is an opportunity.  
  
For the reader: to rotate a whole in the mind, to encounter language pruned and curated, a candy quick to dissolve that lingers on the tongue.    
  
For the writer: to flex and bend, produce fresh expression within limitation, to discover the essential. And in the end, speak through the unsaid and arrive at something unexpected.*

Your story should utilize elements of fiction (such as plot, characterization, setting, point of view, tone, symbolism, theme) and/or poetry (imagery, metaphor, rhythm) as discussed in class.

**Assignment:**

Write a micro essay of 150-500 words that is based on true, personal experience. In order to convey a complete “story” in such a short space, you need to rely heavily on imagery, metaphor, and symbolism to suggest a lot while saying little.

**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