Nonfiction Essay Reminders
(What I usually put on the board during workshop days.)

As you are working on your rough drafts, peer edits, and final drafts of the nonfiction essay, please check this list of "essay reminders" for items to check BEFORE you turn in the final copy. Contact me with any questions!

1. Using numbers is OKAY for this essay. You may have to use them for times, prices, height, weight, etc. Please be consistent; do not spell out some and not others. Use all numbers.

2. Remove weak words. Some used frequently on this essay are: great, amazing, beautiful, breathtaking, really, very, wonderful, terrific, etc.

3. No contractions

4. Use only 3rd POV; no 1st or 2nd

5. Include 1 Figure of Speech per criteria

6. Work extra hard to get rid of clichés. They are, unfortunately, a problem when it comes to nonfiction travel writing. Here are some of the most popular ones to look out for (you can always ask me if you are unsure): family friendly, fun for all ages, people of all ages, creating memories to last a lifetime, time of your life, adrenaline rush, fun in the sun, top of the world, etc.

7. When using quotes, the format will be the same as you have always done. Ex: "The most scenic time to visit the park is from mid-April to late in July" (Big Bend). The only thing to go into the ( ) is the name of the website. Leave the URL on the works cited page.

8. All other quoting rules still apply. This includes using … to cut, [ ] to make changes, and not making quotes any longer than 3 ½ typed lines long to avoid a block quote.

Don't forget to turn in your rough draft and final draft on time!