***Bliss* Essay / English 1C** 6607 **/ Elwood**

Critique Eric Weiner’s memoir *The Geography of Bliss*:

A critique is a criticism, which is not necessarily negative. People critique books, articles, poems, and movies all the time. Movie reviews are mini critiques. Friends often ask if a book is good and you provide a critique by explaining what made the book worthwhile or where the author fell short of your expectations.

Because this is a philosophical exploration of happiness, you may use your own life and personal views in this paper, but be careful not to overuse informal pronouns. Do not feel obligated to provide personal examples if you would rather not.

Here are a few ideas to get you started. You may address more than one of these suggestions or find an approach not mentioned below. However, do not try to answer all of these questions. Things to consider:

1. To what extent is his topic doable? Does that influence your appreciation of the book? Research the idea of happiness and the pursuit of happiness to gain support for your view or to develop an approach for your criticism.

2. What do you think of his tone? Tone is the author’s attitude toward his/her topic. Reflect on Weiner’s sense of humor. How does this contribute to -- or detract from -- his purpose or your appreciation of his book? Research tone and provide evidence from *Bliss* to support your evaluation of Weiner’s tone.

3. Was there any particular chapter that resonated with you? Explore his view of this place and establish to what extent your reading has influenced you in positive or negative ways. Provide personal examples to demonstrate the connections you were able to make.

4. How accurate are his impressions? Research one or more of the countries Weiner visited. Evaluate his objectivity or draw a conclusion about Weiner’s personality or attitude based on his reflections.

5. Consider author’s purpose. What conclusions has he drawn throughout this philosophical exploration? Did he present good arguments for his points? Provide examples from research or from your life that would support or refute any of his arguments.

ROUGH DRAFT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Your rough draft is due Class 14 (Nov. 26) and should be 1½ to 2 pages long. Bring your works cited page that night as well. You must have a working thesis. That means that your thesis might need some adjustment as you move through your research and analysis.  Do not lock yourself into any particular view just because you do not want to rewrite some of your paper.

2. Begin with your working thesis and then move to writing your body paragraphs. Provide context for your quotes. In other words, lead to quotes in such a way that someone who has not read what you have read will not be lost. Keep in mind quote types and structure them correctly. Feel free to create the introduction, conclusion and especially the title last.

3. If you have any questions or would like me to look at a paragraph or so, send me an email. As always, the ECC Writing Center is an excellent place to go for help.

FINAL DRAFT EXPECTATIONS:

1. The final draft will be due Class 15 (Dec. 3).  I expect your essay to be three full pages or more long. That does not include your works cited page. Your introduction should begin with an interesting topic but not begin your arguments. The thesis statement will be the last sentence of your introduction. I expect to see an interesting, million-dollar title. The works cited page will need to be done accurately. Please view my website for instructions and examples.

2. Do not engage in fine-tune editing until you are in the final stages of composing this paper. You do not want to become too attached to paragraphs that you might need to delete. I expect to hear your voice in this paper. Choose a tone and work it! Sarcasm, humor, angst are all appropriate if you feel it. Have fun with this paper.