**English 9: *Working* Unit - Interview Assignment**

Studs Terkel interviewed people from various types of jobs in America and wrote a book entitled *Working* that received glowing reviews. The *Saturday Review* considers it “A documentary masterpiece…a formidable achievement because of the close link between work and personal worth in American Society.” This compilation of nonfiction short stories reveals the truths behind the stereotypes associated with specific jobs and professions. Terkel explains that in this book “the hard substance of the daily job fuses to the haze of the daydream.” His individual stories based on his interviews serve as windows into the minds of American workers.

Your assignment is to interview someone about his/her job. You will follow these steps:

1. Select a person to interview. You may choose a family member, a friend of the family, a coach, and employer, or someone else who holds a job that interests you.
2. Read/watch sample interviews. Discuss which questions seem to elicit the most interesting responses from the subjects. Discuss open-ended questions.
3. Make an appointment to interview that person. The interview should last between 15-30 minutes. **Date and time of interview due Tuesday, November 17**
4. Generate a list of possible questions for your subject. **Due Tuesday, November 24**
5. Interview your subject. Take notes during the interview. Studs Terkel used a tape recorder during his interviews, enabling him to incorporate many specific details into his stories. You may choose to do this, but it is not required. Make sure you have permission to record your subject.

**Notes are due Monday, November 30**

1. Organize your notes. How do you want to begin your interview write up? What will capture your reader’s attention? How do you want to portray your subject? Refer to Terkel’s interviews for basic structure. Begin with a brief background paragraph in italics like he did. Your write up should be at least two pages, typed, and double-spaced.
2. Write the rough draft of your interview. **Due Wednesday, December 2**
3. Revise and submit the final copy of your interview. **Due Monday, December 7**
4. Present your interview to the class on **Monday, December 7**

This assignment is worth 100 points. Your grade will be based primarily on your final project, but you will earn (or lose) points for completing on time all the steps listed above. In addition, you will receive up to twenty additional points for a presentation that you will make in class. You must bring this sheet to class to be initialed by me on each due date and submit it with the final paper.

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| completed | due date | assignment |
|  | Tuesday, November 17 | schedule interview - subject:  profession:  date and time of interview: |
|  | Tuesday, Nov 24 | List of questions |
|  | Monday, Nov 30 | Notes |
|  | Wednesday, Dec 2 | Rough draft |

*Working*, Calendar

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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday, 11/12  \*Introduce and go over interview assignment  \*Watch and review interviews  **due: 4 stories with reflections** | Friday, 11/13  \*Vocabulary  \*Watch and discuss interviews  **due: 5 stories with reflections** |
| 11/16  \*Discuss structure and form in Terkel stories  \*Practice interviews (pp)  **due: 6 stories with reflections** | 11/17  \*Write up practice interviews  \*What works? Doesn’t work?  **due: date and time for interview** | 11/18  \*Central messages in *Working*, FFWs  **due: blue book with 8 stories and reflections** | 11/19  \**Working* in class essay planning: outline and DQs | 11/20  *\*Working* in class essay |
| 11/23  \*review sentences from in class essays  \*FFWs about your interview subject | 11/24  \*vocabulary  **due: interview questions** | 11/25 (half day) | Thanksgiving ☺ | No school |
| 11/30  \*FFWs about info from interviews  \*Work on draft (laptops)  **due: notes from interview** | 12/1  \*Work on draft (laptops) | 12/2 (half day – no classes? )  **due: completed draft** | 12/3  \*go over guidelines for presentations  \*guided editing | 12/4  \*peer editing |
| 12/7  \*presentations  **due: final paper** | 12/8  \*presentations | Poetry! ---> |  |  |