**WAC Writing Assignments**

**ENG 417: Writers Craft**

**N.Mitchell**

**Fall 2011**

***Formal Writing Assignment I***

**Annotation on Imagery**

In this class, we have carefully parsed lines of individual poems by various poets to determine how poets the poetic device of imagery to convey changes in the emotional tone or attitude of the speaker or narrator toward the subject of the poem.

In an annotation of five, double spaced, typed pages in Times New Roman 11, answer the following questions with exact, quoted lines from the text of Etheridge Knight’s poem

*Hard Rock Returns from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane*

1. What images support *Hard Rock / was / known not to take no shit/ From nobody,*

2. What has happened to Hard Rock at the Hospital for the Criminal Insane?

3. What does the simile *Like a freshly gelded stallion,* reveal about Hard Rock’s status among the inmates and how they perceive what has been done to him?

4. How does the simile *And we all waited and watched, like a herd of sheep,* reveal about the inmates and their relationship to Hard Rock?

5. What does the image of the cloak in *As we waited we wrapped ourselves in the cloak/ Of his exploits* reveal about how Hard Rock’s history is comfort and protection for the inmates?

6. What are these past exploits, and what do they reveal about Hard Rock’s daring and strength? What is the *jewel of a myth,* and how does it work perfectly as an image?

7. What images reveal that Hard Rock has been irrevocably changed?

8. What does the final simile reveal about the collective past of the inmates?