LANGUGE & THINKING

Habits of Mind: Bard College

1. **The habit of probative or generative thinking**: Writing to explore, test, discover what you feel or think. You might save fragments or freewrites, inventive language play or reflections you value because they begin to make meaning for you, to extend your thinking in ways you don’t yet fully understand.
2. **The habit of analytic thinking**: Writing to respond to reading, to think about and build upon the writings of other authors whom you read in the workshop. Writing in which you analyze and understand why others think as they do, and then develop and explain your own viewpoint in a conversation others began.
3. **The habits of narrative and poetic thinking:**  Writing to tell stories or to compose poems, both of which enable people to think and to express themselves in ways that non-fictional, analytic prose cannot do. Often

includes metaphorical thinking and sensory fragments of memory.

1. **The habit of reflective thinking:** Writing to investigate self-consciously how one writes and thinks. Each week’s portfolio, whatever else it includes, should contain some such “metacognitive” writing about how you came to choose the writing you included in your portfolio? What pleases or concerns you in it? If you had more time, what would you do? What kinds of response would you find most useful?
2. **Hybrid habits of mind:** Writing that does not feel like fully one thing or another but seems either to combine several habits of mind in a way that feels new and fruitful or to complicate several habits of mind in a way that feels frustrating and confusing.