Redrafting Paper One

I have made extensive comments on nearly every one of your papers. As part of the process of further developing your writing skills, revising is an essential and arguably the most important step.

Here is how you should proceed:

1. Set aside a chunk of time to read the comments I’ve made. Don’t simply glide over them, but try to understand why it is that I made the comment. Think about what it is you were trying to say at that point that didn’t make sense to me.
2. If you had a number of grammatical, punctuation, or style comments, get out (or go buy) a copy of Strunk and White’s *Elements of Style*. Read the relevant sections to better understand the rules and guides on this. If you had problems with citation, go back and re-read the manual that you used for that aspect of the paper.
3. Before you go back to your computer, try to redraft problematic areas on paper. Perhaps you need to go back and read (or re-read) materials that you did or should have used in the paper. Make sure you understood what was said in the reading. Don’t simply look back at your lecture notes. Lectures are largely intended to help you better understand readings. Thus your papers should rely on readings first and foremost. This is why I don’t want you citing to lectures.
4. Come meet with me. I will hold office hours next Tuesday from 1 to 3pm and Wednesday night from 5 to 10 pm. I will distribute a sign-up sheet on Tuesday in class.
5. Begin process of rewriting. Do not simply take my marks and input them. For many of you, revisions will entail jettisoning whole paragraphs and starting over. This is normal. If you end up exceeding the 5-page limit, that is fine.

Redrafts are due by the beginning of class on Thursday, November 13th. When you resubmit you must turn in:
- The original paper with my comments in red.
- The evaluation checklist
- The revised paper