Response #2: on Mark Salzman’s *True Notebooks*

Due: in class Friday, week 2

Length: probably 2-4 pages; longer is fine. As long as you need to say what needs to be said.

Coverage: This paper should cover Salzman’s book through Friday’s reading assignment. If you’ve read further, feel free to include later material.

Choose one of the following topics:

1. In many ways this is a book about men and boys. What concepts of masculinity are operating with Mark’s students? What is the masculine culture inside the prison system? Who do you see struggling against concepts of masculinity? Who do you see accepting and enacting masculine roles without question? Are any of the male figures changing in their relationship to the idea of masculinity?

2. On p. 114, Mr. Jenkins says, “What a little family we make.” At the end of Friday’s reading, Mr. Sills also uses the family metaphor. How has Mark’s privilege as a white, middle-class, highly educated male figured into his gradual entry into this weird family? How do you see him evolving in relation to his own social privilege?

Whichever topic you choose, be sure you

1. provide concrete evidence for your judgments. If you quote, cite page numbers in parentheses AFTER the quotation marks.
2. have a clear central idea, or thesis, that unifies your paper. I don’t care where you put it.

Don’t worry too much about introduction and conclusion. In your advance planning, figure out where the paper needs to start and map out its development in a logical way.