Out-of-Class Essay II: William Kittredge’s *Owning it All* (25%)
Due: Thursday, 31 October 2013 (at the beginning of class)

**General Directions:**
Write a three to four page (three full pages, minimum) **argumentative thesis-driven essay** in response the topic listed below.

You must type your paper in 12 point Times New Roman font and use MLA format throughout: one inch margins, proper heading, numbering, and citing, etc. Your essay must also contain a Work Cited Page (See tab 6, *A Writer’s Resource* for specific instructions and examples on these essentials).

**Specific Directions:**

1) Choose one of the following essays from William Kittredge’s book, *Owning it All*:
   - “Home”
   - “Buckaroos”
   - “Owning it All”

2) Select a recurring theme, pattern, or idea that emerges throughout the text:
   - I.E. adversity, chance, defeat, identity, education, illusion versus reality, self-knowledge, loss/longing, history, politics, mythology, man’s relationship to nature, story-telling, biblical allusions, etc.

3) Write an essay fully analyzing that theme. For example, if you believe that Kittredge laments on loss of innocence in his essay “Home” or critiques the crushing effects of misconstruing one’s vacuous pursuits for a life purpose in “Buckaroos,” then you must determine what is significant about those observations. Is he altering the reader’s preconceptions about home or initiation? Does he challenge the reader to locate his/her own means of finding coherency in the world? Does he shed light on the artistic process, illuminate aspects of real life?

What might animate Kittredge in “Owning it All”? Does he confront the stability of our historical underpinnings, cultural myths or national stories? Can his ideas enhance your understanding of other texts, other life situations? What belief system(s) does he call into question and why?

- When you construct your thesis make sure to include the three necessary components, according to our text *Techniques of College Writing*: CSC.
- Within your paragraphs, incorporate evidence from the text to support your claims. Analyze your quotations and develop your paragraphs fully by way of the TAXES model, employing examples, quotes, illustrations, and/or analogies from Kittredge’s essay. Pay close attention to the “e” and the “s” portions of TAXES, and recall the 80/20 rule of substantive paragraphs.
• **No summarizing allowed.** Remember that you are *not* merely retelling the highlights of the essay. Instead, you will conduct a close reading of your selected Kittredge piece, ultimately determining what you think it *means* and arguing for that stance.

4) Keep in mind too that analysis involves breaking things down into parts so as to better understand the whole. Thus, you will need to pay special attention to textual details: language, inter-textual references, plot, narrative, speaker, etc. Consult your “Close Reading” handout for further particulars on this.