Complete one of the following writing assignments each week. I will check your responses weekly, and you will have to submit a total of four responses at the end of the Into the Wild unit. You must choose, revise, and polish ONE response you want me to grade.

**Specific Guidelines:**
1. Each response must be typed, double-spaced, with a proper MLA heading.
2. Each response must be at least one page.
3. Each response should be organized in a strategic, stylistic manner.
4. Let go a little -- break the traditional style of formal writing and let your personality shine through.
   a. Show me; do not tell me.
   b. Paint a complete picture of the experience, person or people.
   c. Use imagery and other poetic devices.
   d. Show me who you are. Be honest, emotional, funny, sarcastic, etc., not sterile and formal.
5. I will grade you according to the traditional guidelines; however, your final response will be graded primarily on how interesting it is.
   a. If you let your personality, your voice, who you are shine through -- trust me -- your responses will be interesting.
6. Proofread!!!
7. Toward the end of the unit, revise one response you particularly love. Submit all four pieces, but identify which response you want me to grade (formally).
8. Each response is due Friday; if you submit the response late, you will automatically lose points on the final assignment.

**a. Late Policy:**
* Responses will be accepted no more than one day late for 1/2 credit.
* You must submit all responses to turnitin.com each Friday by midnight.
* You will lose 10 points on the final grade if you do not submit the response at all or submit the response beyond the deadline.
* If you submit the final product late, you will lose an additional 10 points per day.
* You are not exempt from these deadlines if you miss class because of an extracurricular activity or scheduled appointment.

**Week 1: (Choose one)**
1. Krakauer clearly wrote Into the Wild, in part, because he can relate to Chris. Discuss whether or not you can relate to Chris.

2. Chris and Krakauer took risk-taking to the extreme in order to find themselves and escape their tumultuous lives. Describe a ritual, routine, or practice that helps you escape the stresses in your life.
3. Chris had several goals in mind when he embarked on his Alaskan adventure. Examine and explore one of your life goals.

**Week 2: (Choose one)**

1. Krakauer and Carine spend a great deal of time discussing the McCandless family dynamic. Describe an experience that captures or epitomizes your family dynamic.

2. Chris meets several people on his journey to whom he is particularly drawn emotionally. Describe someone in your life with whom you have a particularly special relationship.

3. In the poem “I Go Back to May,” the speaker fantasizes about her parents never meeting, yet recognizes she would not exist as a result. Describe a stressful or tragic experience in your life where you learned something positive or meaningful.

**Week 3: (Choose one)**

1. Chris and authors like Thoreau and Emerson view nature as a reflection of the human experience. Write a response in which you describe yourself as an element of nature: a tree, a rock, a river, etc.

2. Chris appreciates all facets of the natural world. Describe something in nature to which you are especially drawn.

3. Chris spent more than 100 days in the Alaskan wilderness in total isolation. Imagine you are alone in the Alaskan wilderness; describe what you see and explore your feelings and thoughts.

**Week 4: (Choose one)**

1. Carine McCandless primarily wrote her book *The Wild Truth* as a reaction to some people’s misconceptions. She wants people to understand her brother and remember him in a certain way. Write a response in which you examine how you wish people to remember you.

2. Many people, especially Alaskans, perhaps misjudged McCandless. Discuss a moment in your life where you misjudged something or someone.

3. Write a response in which you describe your role model or hero.