Surprising Reversal Essay (Informative)

What topic do you know more about than most people know? This assignment will ask you to use your own personal experiences, observations, and research to enlarge your reader’s view of that topic in a surprising/interesting way. Imagine an audience of general readers who hold a common view (i.e. an airline passenger). In a general way, this assignment requires you to pose a question about your topic, provide the commonly accepted answer to the question, and then give your own surprising answer. The actual paper will be more subtle than that, but that should give you the basic idea.

Although this assignment looks like it might be trying to change the reader’s mind, your writing will actually be informative rather than persuasive since it both poses a different kind of question and also considers a different reader stance than persuasion does. In this case, your question (or topic) should not be controversial, as is typical with persuasive writing, with its strong rational arguments for all sides. Also, in persuasive writing, we imagine a resistant reader who may argue back; however, in informative prose, we can imagine a more trusting reader willing to learn from your experiences or research (i.e. an airline passenger)

In this paper, you should have an introduction that engages the reader and provides necessary background or context. Do not put your thesis early in the paper; instead, delay it until after you have explained the common, expected understanding of your topic. This delay in presenting the thesis creates a slightly open form, and the structure of the paper overall helps add tension to your thesis.

Early draft due in class_________________

Portfolio due by____________________