**Reverse Outline Assignment:**

[Medium stakes—In class, we discuss the importance of order and structure, and how to read like a writer—that we can learn content *and* structure and how they work together.

In this case, each of Alvarez’s rules is a riddle, so we spend class time working through the content, researching what we don’t know. After content is firm, we look at structure, transitions, title, etc., and how all the pieces work together for the good of the content.

This essay has very accessible transitions and connections between ideas. We also discuss categories of supporting evidence and how she uses support throughout the essay. Since this is for a writing course, we also talk about compelling language, so they copy out one sentence from each section that they think is strongest and support their reasoning.]

**Reverse Outline Assignment:**

Create a reverse outline of Julia Alvarez’s “Ten of My Writing Commandments.” Structure as you would an outline (check OWL for potential outlines). Pick the outline format that makes the most sense to you.

For each paragraph, include:

* 1. Main idea in as few words as possible. You do not need complete sentences.
  2. What is that paragraph doing for the essay/section? (Literally, what is its job? Is it introducing a new commandment? Offering additional support? Transitioning from one idea to the next?)
  3. Types of support in that paragraph (Fact, Observation, Opinion, Statistic, Example, Experience). You don’t need to quote the essay, just list what type(s) of support she used in that paragraph.
  4. Copy the sentence from each main section that you thought was the strongest, and in one short sentence discuss why.

**Follow up assignment (short writing)**

**Create An Eleventh Commandment:**

Using Alvarez’s essay as a blueprint, come up with a commandment about writing that fits with her structure, but use your own voice and style of writing. Be sure to support it with an example, experience, or opinion, like Alvarez did. Aim for one, full paragraph, and be prepared to share it with the class.