

Project #1: Reflective Narrative: Your Writer's Story

We will spend much time in class considering what writing is and means to you. In this assignment, you will look back on your life of learning to write and reflect upon how you came to be the writer you are today.

Assignment: Write a reflective narrative in which you describe and analyze the most important part of your story of being or becoming a writer. You have two options:

1. Identify one specific moment, event, or experience that changed the way you write, the way you think about yourself as a writer, or the way you think about writing.
2. Describe how you developed your current beliefs about writing or yourself as a writer. This one is much more difficult. You must be concise and coherent. You must very clearly identify influences or (1 or 2) events that led to your current beliefs.

This is, in part, an assignment introducing yourself to me and the class. Use the following questions to help you consider what you might write about.

- What are your personal beliefs about writing? How did you arrive at them?
- When have you experienced great success with writing? Great failure?
- Is there a time where writing or your writing became especially important?

The main purpose behind this assignment is to encourage you to think deeply about your current ideas about writing and how you got there. Be sure to explain the significance of your experience and connect it to your current ideas.

Evaluation: Reflective writing is based upon your own experiences and your interpretations of those experiences. I'll use the following to grade your writer's story:

- *Narrative:* How are you telling this story? Are you including specific details like dialogue or scenery? Is the story easy to follow and well organized? Is it engaging? Do you begin your story with a sentence or paragraph that captures your readers' attention? Do you "play it safe" with this story or are you taking risks with your writing? (40 pts)
- *Analysis:* Have you told your readers why this story is important and connect it to your current ideas about writing? Do you describe specifically how it changed you or your writing? (30 pts)
- *Style and Organization:* Is the paper structured in a way that makes it easy to understand? Is your voice as a writer present here? (20 pts)
- *Editing:* Have you edited and proofread your paper carefully so that no grammatical or spelling errors detract from your message and your credibility as a writer? (10 pts)

Draft 1 Due (1200-1400 words, double-spaced): Th, Sept 11: Bring 2 hard copies to class with you for peer review; post your draft to your folder in Blackboard for Lisa's review; include as page 1 a writer's letter addressed to your writing group and Lisa explaining where you're at in your writing process, what questions you have, and what you want us to focus on in our review. If you reference or use any outside sources (it is not required, but it is allowed), please document it in MLA format. Give your paper a creative title, not just "Reflection." Save your digital file as:

Writer'sStory_yourlastname_yourfirstname_DRAFT.docx

Revised final paper due Th, Sept 18 to your folder in Blackboard: Include as page 1 a revised version of your writer's letter explaining, in detail, the changes you made to your paper after peer and instructor review. Save your digital file as: Writer'sStory_yourlastname_yourfirstname_FINAL.docx