

Writing Project One: Who Are You as a Writer?

In the many years of schooling leading up to your freshman year of college, you are likely to have spent a large amount of classroom time learning about writing. In elementary school you learned to hand-write individual letters and words, and then to compose sentences, paragraphs, and entire essays. In high school you probably saw that writing became much more complex (and more difficult) as teachers emphasized thesis-driven arguments and research. With each different stage of your writing education came a whole new set of rules, attitudes, and assumptions that played some role in shaping your views on writing and your unique writing practices.

In Writing Project One, through a meticulous examination of your own writing practices, you will **write a reflective, analytical essay in which you investigate your knowledge of and assumptions about writing in order to arrive at a new understanding of yourself as a writer.**

The goals of this assignment are to learn about your own writing practices, to identify and articulate assumptions you have about writing, to investigate the origins of those assumptions, and to create a heightened sensitivity toward writing issues. Furthermore, you will draw on your own personal experiences to support your argument and employ established conventions of academic writing.

For this assignment, you are observing how you write and developing a theory about why you write the way you do. In a way, you have to think of yourself as a source of "data." **To successfully complete this assignment, you will have to closely observe yourself writing (i.e., collect "data"), analyze your detailed observations, and then construct a theory based on your analysis.** In studying yourself closely, you will acquire a new understanding of who you are as a writer and, I hope, become more sensitive to writing-related issues.

Important questions to consider include the following:

- What kinds of school-based writing have you done or do you do? (e.g., personal essays, informal response writing, fiction, poetry, lab reports, researched writing, etc.)
- What kinds of non-school-based writing have you done or do you do? (e.g., fiction, poetry, newsletters, blogging, texting, tweeting, journaling, etc.)
- How do you approach a writing assignment?
- What do you do before ever putting pen to paper?
- What kinds of "prewriting" or planning do you do?
- How many "drafts" do you write before submission?
- What does the act of writing look like for you?
- When do you feel comfortable or uncomfortable while writing? Why? What insights can you draw from this knowledge?
- In what ways is your process of writing similar to those of other writers?
- In what ways is your process different from those of other writers?

Requirements

- 4 double-spaced pages with one inch margins
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- APA format with custom header (no title page, 4 line heading upper left of first page, last name/page # in upper right of each page)

Grading Criteria:

- Highly detailed description of your writing process(es)

- Use of personal writing practices as support for thesis
- Analysis of writing practices and assumptions which lead to some new understanding about yourself as a writer
- Content organization – How effective is the introduction? The conclusion? Do transitions and the organization of main ideas help readers to focus upon and clearly understand the connections between the author's identity as a writer?
- Manuscript preparation – Has the writer polished the final draft carefully, addressing audience expectations and college-level academic writing conventions?

Due Dates:

First Draft: Thursday, September 8

Revised Draft: Tuesday, September 20

Final Draft: Tuesday, September 27