

First and Last Name
ENG 100
Essay #1: Creative Nonfiction (One-Month Memoir)
Due:

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Purpose: Please write a creative nonfiction essay that explores the past month of your life.

Audience: Your primary audience is people who visit your website, including your classmates and instructor. Your secondary audience is the editors of <http://brevitymag.com/>

Style: This is a creative nonfiction piece so please blend both narrative (story) and expository (information) writing. Please use the tone that is most appropriate for your purpose and audience.

Focus: Through a series of scenes you should use narrative writing to show your experience over the past month. You may focus on one particular event or story—or you could focus on a particular theme that connects multiple events.

Thesis: Your thesis statement can be implied or stated—either option should communicate the focus of your essay.

Process: To begin, *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding your decision: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other expert opinions to generate ideas and answer the following questions. Over the last month:

- Have you made any split-second decisions or any decisions you have spent time thinking about? Did you make the right decision? Why or Why not? Did other people pressure you to make this decision?
- What belief system, if any, influenced your life events? In retrospect, did this belief system help or hinder your decision?
- What social system (family, religion, education, media, economic class, law, government) influenced your life experiences? In retrospect, did this social system help or hinder your life?
- Have you traveled to a new destination? Familiar destination?
- Have you experienced any major changes in a relationship?
- How has life as a college student impacted you? New campus? Back to school after a hiatus?
- Have you repeated any mistakes? How/Why has this impacted your life?
- Which conversations, dreams, accidents, hobbies, (moments) etc. might you use to jumpstart a story?

Product: This essay must be around 1000 words and formatted as follows: 12-point font, double-spacing. Please include an original title centered at the top of the essay. This doesn't count as an original title: *Creative Nonfiction Essay*. We will use these criteria to evaluate your essay:

- _____ Your thesis communicates the focus of your essay.
- _____ Your essay is well organized, descriptive, and analytical.
- _____ Your essay has a clear time frame.
- _____ Your essay has a clear structure (showing and telling scenes are well-integrated and cohesive).
- _____ Your writing is appropriate and compelling for your audience.
- _____ Your essay includes reflective “telling” moments located between the showing scenes.
- _____ Your essay is around 1000 words.
- _____ Your essay shows signs of careful proofreading, with minimal grammatical or spelling errors.