

First and Last Name

ENG 100

Assignment #3: One-Semester Memoir

Due:

Assignment #3: *One-Semester Memoir*

Prompt: Please write a creative nonfiction narrative that explores a major theme or themes from this semester. The story must be about you and about moments from your life that occurred during the semester. Please do not make up this story.

Purpose: Inform and Entertain.

Audience: Your primary audience is people who will visit your site.

Style: This is a creative nonfiction piece so please blend narrative, descriptive, and expository writing. Please use the tone that is most appropriate for your purpose and audience. MOST of this story should be illustrating a scene or two or three from an event from your life. SHOW the reader what happened. Here is a good test: you should be able to draw your scenes as if they were a comic strip. If you cannot find enough description in your writing to create a visual scene, you are not SHOWING the reader your scene; rather, you are TELLING them about what happened. As a ratio, think about 80% showing writing (description and action in scenes) and 20% telling. Just to give you an idea.

Focus: Through a series of action scenes you should use narrative writing to show your own experience. Please focus on one particular event or story. Do not try to write about three different experiences from your life—because you will not have the space in this assignment to fully develop your ideas.

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

Process: To begin, review your blog posts and critique your writing for common themes and meaningful moments for your life. *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding your story: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other memoirs to generate ideas and answer the following questions. Over the last semester:

- 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?
- In terms of identity or worldview, have you been working through any major transitions?

Product: This essay should 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 essay is well organized, descriptive, and analytical.

- _____ Your essay has a clear time frame: this semester.
- _____ 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.