

ENGL 1113: English Composition I
Writing to Share Experiences
(Remembering, Observing, Narrating)

Assignment:

For this assignment, use the techniques for writing about memories, observations, and experiences. You will craft an essay that focuses on a defining moment in your life and the lasting effects of this event. To begin, free-write, cluster, or brainstorm about the instant a particular realization, discovery, new thought, person, or event changed you and your way of thinking. The reason you are writing about this life-shaping experience must be clear to the reader. Remembering everything about an experience in the past is not the primary purpose of this assignment. The reader is most interested in the connections you are able to make between this experience, lesson(s) learned, and your current personality or state.

Techniques for Writing about Experiences:

- Use detailed observations of people, places, and events.
- Focus on occasion and cultural context.
- Create specific scenes set in time and space.
- Note changes, contrasts, and conflicts.
- Make connections between past and present.
- Discover and focus on a main idea.

Option I: To add immediacy to your writing, write your essay in the present tense.

Option II: Write your essay in the past tense, concluding the last paragraph in the current, present tense or the past tense.

Option III: Start your essay in the present or past tense, and use flashbacks to develop the details of your essay. Do not forget to show the lasting effects of this moment.

Objectives:

- use invention techniques such as brainstorming, listing, cubing, reporters' questions, free-writing, and clustering.
- organize ideas and supporting details in a clear and effective manner.
- express the main idea of an essay in a thesis statement.
- develop effective paragraphs that exhibit unity, organization, and coherence.
- write correct and effective sentences.
- revise and edit essays to improve the original draft.
- gather information from a variety of sources, incorporate the information into a writing project, and properly document the sources in MLA style when outside sources are used.

Organization:

Introduction: Start the essay with an engaging introduction. Let the reader see you and how you think and feel prior to the defining moment. You may state an explicit thesis at the end of the first paragraph, or you may decide to build up to your thesis and state it clearly in the conclusion.

Body Paragraphs: Each body paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that supports a point of your thesis to be developed, even if your thesis is saved for the conclusion. Though you will want to move through time and space in your body paragraphs, avoid starting each paragraph in the same way.

Conclusion: The conclusion of this essay must fully develop how this defining moment shaped you. Let the reader see you again at the end of your essay. How does the new you compare to the old you? Specifically, what lesson have you learned and how have you applied that lesson to your life?

Requirements:

- 12—point font
- 3—4 pages
- Typed Rough Draft Due: September 22
- Final Draft Due: September 29