

Initial Writer's Reflective Self-Portrait

Instructions:

To aid me in better understanding you—as a writer—I wish to learn about your experiences with writing. To facilitate this, I am asking you to reflect on these experiences in a short, in-class essay—complete with an introduction and a conclusion—which you may wish to view as an autobiography. So, take the time allotted and reflect on your growth and instruction as a writer, and why you either enjoy it, dislike it, or are indifferent to the craft. Think of both negative and positive experiences that have either stunted or strengthened your skills—both inside and outside of the classroom. Also, consider what type of writer you wish to become in your respective discipline, and what you will need to learn to reach that goal. Be open and honest with your response—it will only help me to better understand your development as an author. If you run out of time and cannot finish your essay, this will not impact you in a negative fashion.

Ideas:

To help you get started, I've listed some ideas below. Please feel free to use any of the ideas I've listed, but know that it is not required for you to do so.

- If applicable, reflect on previous writing courses taken at Pace (e.g. ENG 110/120). What did you learn? What do you wish you learned?
- Consider specific components of the writing process: drafting, revising, editing. What is your view/use of these processes? Do you think this will change?
- Reflect on your discipline and the requirements of its discourse community. What will you need to learn to enter that community?
- Consider reflecting on how you've grown as a writer from, say, your freshmen year of high school to present.
- Maybe you really enjoy writing. Why is that? What helped you develop your craft and passion?
- Maybe you really don't enjoy writing or the task intimidates you. Perhaps you still possess a negative memory regarding writing, which hinders your potential. Work from one or a combination of these ideas.
- Perhaps you're content or indifferent to writing. To help prepare you for your career, what do you think you'd like to improve as a writer?
- Consider other resources or texts that have helped shape your view, feelings, and ability with respect to writing (e.g. the Writing Center, a novel, etc.).