

Essay #1– Examine and Analyze your Past Writing

Some questions to help develop your analysis:

Examine the collage that you created of your past writing. Identify the different elements: what kind of writing was this, what was your purpose for writing this, who was your audience? Was the piece effective? Did it get the message across to the audience? Why or why not? Which pieces are ineffective (fail to communicate)? Does the piece show a rough draft or some other stage of the writing process?

Consider the essays about writing that we have read recently: which of these authors covers information that helps to explain why the writing from your collage was successful or failed to communicate?

- hooks “keeping close to home: class and education”
- Melzer’s “Understanding Writing Assignments: Tips and Techniques”
- Anne Lamott’s “Shitty First Drafts”
- Robert’s “How to Say Nothing in Five Hundred Words”
- Foley’s “UnTeaching the 5 paragraph Essay”
- Flower’s “Writing for an Audience”
- Rodriguez’s “Hunger for Memory Chapter 1”
- Baldwin’s “If Black English Ain’t a Language then Tell me What is?”
- Tan’s “Mother Tongue”

Your Assignment:

Using the analysis of your writing that you’ve conducted to write an essay that discusses the effectiveness of your writing (base your analysis on the pieces of writing from your collage and use those pieces as examples in your essay.) Effectiveness means: Does your writing communicate a message, make a point, convince the audience, or not?

This essay should 1. use specific examples (quotes) from YOUR pieces of writing to support and explain your thesis and 2. support your analysis with information from one of the readings about writing listed above.

Requirements and considerations:

- Your finished paper should be at least 750 words, typed, double-spaced.
- **This paper should contain a thesis (main idea) and be written as one coherent paper that discusses your writing in general, rather than a separate discussion of each piece from your collage.**
- **To develop a thesis statement, consider what message about writing you want to share with your readers.**
- This paper should use specific examples (in the form of quotes) from your collage.
- You are not required to discuss every piece of writing that you included in your collage. You don’t need to bring in every professional author that we’ve read.

Learning Objectives:

- Use quotes from your collage into an analysis. (CO4.4)
- Critically analyze why your writing has been successful or unsuccessful in the past or in certain writing situations. (CO1.1, 1.2)
- Create an overall thesis based on your analysis and support that thesis statement throughout the essay. (CO4.2)
- Generate ideas for your essay by examining trends in your writing from the collage 4.1
- Choose a pattern of organization to construct your essay 4.2

Grading:

“Not Yet” Papers in this category have the following characteristics: underdeveloped, does not address the assignment, doesn't cite sources or fails to include sources, organization needs work, no analysis/summary only, attention to audience is needed, no thesis/unsupported thesis, sentence level errors/clarity are so distracting a reader cannot understand the points the writer is making.

Satisfactory: A satisfactory paper meets or exceeds in the following areas: developed to word count, addresses the assignment, cites sources but may need work in this area, organization is adequate for readers to follow (includes paragraphs with topic sentences), some analysis of the topic is attempted, audience attention is adequate (word choice and background information), thesis is present and mostly supported, sentence clarity may need work but the ideas are clear enough.

Incomplete: only a partial draft turned in; doesn't meet the assignment or the 750 word count

DUE DATES:

- **Draft Due for Peer Review beginning of week 6**
- **Finished Essay with reflective cover memo DUE to instructor on Canvas end of week 6**