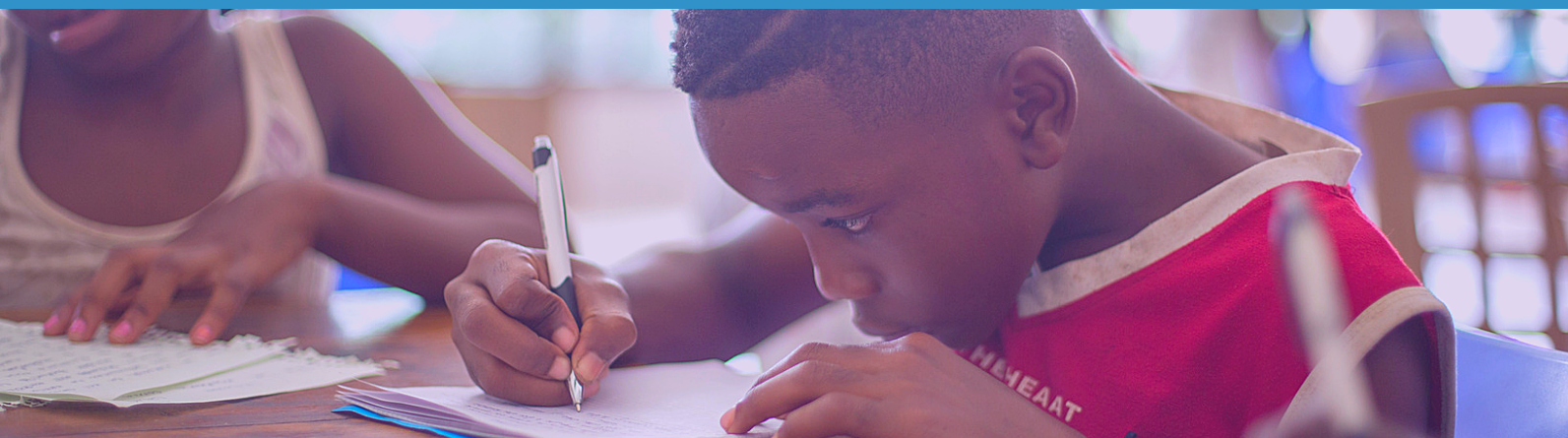


# Unit One: From Personal to Public



## Part One (75%) At least 850 Words. Due Feb 14.

You've read "Outside, In," "Hidden Intellectualism," and "Mother Tongue," all narratives about the writers' experiences with education. Now it's time for you to write an education narrative of your own. What is a particular event that had an impact on the way you view education and school?

So... where do you begin? Note that Graff, Tan and Mellix write about specific experiences with education. In class, we've written some scenes, and talked a lot about concrete, significant detail. Please feel free to bring some of these scenes into your essay. I really want to encourage you to be both specific and honest here, as Graff, Tan and Mellix are. I am not looking for a particular answer—I'm not, for example, searching for you to tell me that education is the greatest thing that happened to you if it isn't. I am looking for you to share your true experiences, both good and bad. I am also looking for you to use the building blocks of anecdote (story) and reflection (explaining why this story is important) that we have discussed in class. That is, I want you to, not only write about your educational experiences, but also to take a step back and look at the larger picture. What do you want your audience to take away from your story?

This can be written formally, like Graff writes, or more informally as Mellix sometimes writes—it just can't be sloppy. You should be able to explain WHY you chose the language you did (even if you've chosen "English paper English.") Why is that language the best tool for the job?

Everything you write for this assignment will be posted in an eBook, which will be available to everyone in the class, so don't write anything that's too personal to share. **Also, please note, the late policy is more strict for this assignment (since I need to publish it right away.) You will be marked down a full letter grade for each day your paper is late.**

You will be graded on: concrete, significant detail, the thoughtfulness of your reflections, the carefulness of your proofreading and organization, and whether or not it is on time!

### Homework for part one (please see OpenLab for more detailed descriptions)

Due Jan 31: Read and annotate "Mother Tongue." Write a "lowkey" response: How does Tan's experience relate to your own experiences with education? See Open Lab for details.

Due Feb 5: Read and annotate "Outside In" by Barbara Mellix. Fill out Triple-Entry journal.

Due Feb 7: A less "Sh\*tty" First Draft

Feb 12: NO CLASS (Holiday)

Feb 14: Part One Due-- Final Draft of "Education Narrative"

## Part Two (25%) Due Feb 26.

For part two of this assignment, you will be looking at what you think is working well and not working well in American education, using your own and your peers' writing (as well as Sir Ken Robinson's talk on education) as sources. You will present the class with what you think the biggest problems in education are (using patterns you've seen emerge in everything we've read so far) and what might be A PLACE TO START looking for solutions. You also might add what you think the barriers to implementing those solutions might be.

Let me put it this way: you are not going to be able to solve the problems with education in America in a couple hours of discussion, because they are difficult problems! But then again, you are experts: you are students in America, people that are rarely listened to on this topic of education. You will have 5-7 minutes (no less, but also not much more) to get up on a soap box and talk about issues you see. You have two full days of class time and four people to put this together, so I expect you to make it informative and interesting. This means:

1. Using your experiences and everything we've read so far, pinpoint a key problem or problems.
2. Do some research! Who is working on these problems? What do they say?
3. Make something visual to show during your presentation-- quote the experts, sure. But also quote each other. Make sure we hear from your education narratives. Let your audience know: where can we start making school a place where students actually learn better?

### Homework for part two

Due Feb 19: Read the three student essays in your group and do triple-entry journal on them (at least three entries each!) Work on Projects in class

Due Feb 21: Work on projects in class. Prepare to present on Feb 26.

Due Feb 26: Presentations, 7 mins each.

