

Portrait of a Writer – Unit 1

We've been looking at quite a lot of stuff so far: literacy sponsors, the rules we have in our heads for writing, blockers and non-blockers, good and bad ideas about writing, how we got to be listeners or talkers in class thanks to our experiences in school.

Use everything we've done to consider who you are as a writer. How do you see yourself as a writer? Is that self-perception helping you be the best writer you can be? The purpose of this assignment is to help you better understand why and how you write, and how you might write or approach writing differently.

This is on the OpenLab site, but here's a reminder of what you'll be doing:

Look back over your posts and think about the class discussions, and write about what you've learned. I'm not looking for you to persuade me about anything; I'm looking for you to think through your history as a reader and writer, your attitude toward and beliefs about writing, and the place writing now has and probably will have in the future. Then tell me what insights you've gained, and what in the readings and discussion helped you get there.

This is NOT a chronology of your life. This IS a "so what do I think?" piece. What have you found out about yourself as a writer? What's surprising? What's annoying? What's giving you hope or even despair?

This is also NOT an "Introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, concluding paragraph" piece. Tell me what you're thinking, in whatever length and structure you want to tell it.

This IS a discovery piece, an exploration, and I expect the first draft to be messy. In fact, I even call it a Discovery Draft. Don't obsess over punctuation; just write as clearly as you can without getting hung up on it.

One word: when you cite something from a reading, be sure to say where it came from. We'll talk about in-text citations in class, but when you're writing it, don't panic about it--just give the author credit by saying his/her name, and we'll make it "formal" later.

Have fun with this. Dig deep. Be honest. And get things in on time!

Specifics:

- Length: Make sure it's 500 words or so.
- Audience: all of us!
- Due dates:
 - Post your first draft by 2/20. Attach it as a Word doc using the Add Media function. No post, no workshop, no notes from me.
 - Post your revised draft and writer's statement by 2/27. Attach as a Word doc using the Add Media function. Remember: you'll be doing a last revision at the end of the term, and the grade you get now can change.