



ENG 1101 Assignment | Personal Inventory

Let's do a little self-exploration through writing, shall we? Who are you? What experience(s) have defined you? What is holding you back? What absorbs your complete attention? What are you interested in? How are you known among your family and friends? What is the horizon of your interests? Most importantly, how are you going to get there?

It is not enough to *think* about these questions. You must answer them, and do so through rich detail. Doing so not only gives you direction for the work of this course, it helps you become a more effective writer and communicator. Why? Because excellent writers know themselves, their motivations, needs, desires, insecurities, strengths, weaknesses, etcetera. They do not let themselves be intimidated by who they are within themselves or within the world.

If you haven't already, it is time to begin that work.

Directions

Compose all of your responses into one document, formatted using single-spacing. Upload your assignment to Drive by Thursday, September 20th at 11:00 a.m.

The following guidelines will help you produce a successful document:

PART I.A—Take some notes. Write a list of 10 things on a separate piece of paper for *each* of the following four categories:

- What fascinates you?
- What do you want to accomplish in the next five years besides school?
- What things that you do for your job, your schooling, your hobbies, and/or your professional ambitions that make you feel really good (i.e., have "flow")?
- What problems are holding you back in your life currently?

In total, you will have 40 things in your notes across four categories. What you want to be sure of is that your 40 items are not just general words (e.g., love, sports, poetry, music, etc.), but complete thoughts. So, rather than "I like guitars," you would write, "Collecting custom Japanese electric guitars" or "Wanting to be djent guitar god."

For example, for things that fascinate you, you might include:

- a. Browsing community websites (e.g. Reddit, Metafilter, Quora).
- b. Participating in the culture surrounding collecting and wearing "sneakers."
- c. Designing and soldering circuits.
- d. Hacking Raspberry Pi boxes.
- e. Following the #MeToo movement and cases of sexual harassment in media.
- f. Watching videos of wingsuit flying (and dying).

PART I.B—Choose five things from each category and develop a paragraph for each of them (20 paragraphs total). With each interest, be sure that your explanation conveys why it is interesting

to you. A well-written three-to-four sentence of explanation for each (approximately one short paragraph) is sufficient.

For example:

My Fascinations (Today, Anyway)

Browsing community blog websites – I've always been a compulsive reader and enjoy learning about things through conversations by knowledgeable people. Reading community question-and-answer sites is one way to explore worlds that I don't otherwise have access to. Whenever I'm bored, or overwhelmed with work, I check into these sites because I always learn something new. My favorites are Reddit, Metafilter, and Quora.

Studying data visualizations – I'm a very visually-oriented person, but I have to struggle for every single bit of creative skill I'm able to acquire. I don't learn well by watching videos, or listening. I have to have a visual system to read/study. Data visualizations are an example of how I learn best, and also what I wish I could do better. I really like visualizations that provide some level of meta-analysis of a subject.

You will be required to think and maybe even look up words and ideas to articulate aspects about you well enough to cover a paragraph. Ask yourself the five journalistic questions: what, where, when, how, and why if you get stuck. Be sure to give yourself enough text to connect your interests, goals, problems, etc., and an explanation of them, to both an internal audience (you) and an external audience (me).

PART II—Choose 20 questions from the question bank (see following pages) and answer them with a paragraph each. The questions that you choose are entirely up to you, but you should have at least three, and more like four to five, sentences for each response. Be sure to include a subject heading that lets your reader (i.e., me) know what you are writing about.

PART III—Create a finished document using standard margins, font choice, and organization as you understand them from your previous writing experience. Except, this time make the document **single-spaced** and **well-organized**—much like this assignment sheet is doing. I have added a sample template for a simple reporting style to OpenLab for your reference. You can use it if you wish, but it will need to be adapted. Set this document aside until you are ready to begin drafting your inventory.

Grading

This assignment is worth 100 points and is graded on your ability to use the directions to generate an appropriate volume of content suitable to developing a conversation about yourself through writing. **Your grade will not be determined by how correctly your writing approximates Standard Business English, so write freely, but with care.**

You must thoughtfully complete the entire assignment for full credit. Credit cannot be awarded for work not completed and loaded to Drive. Incomplete work (i.e., missing sections, lack of full paragraphs, unformatted) will be given partial or no credit.

Personal Inventory Questions to Choose from To Answer (Choose 20)

1. What hobby would you get into if you had as much money or time as you wanted?
2. What is your super power?
3. What job or activity would you be terrible at?
4. What habit do other people have that annoys you the most?
5. What skill would you love to master if you could?
6. What would be an once-in-a-lifetime adventure for you?
7. What is the last adventure you went on? Who joined you?
8. What song have you completely memorized? What does it mean to you?
9. If you could live in a movie or game, which one would you choose and why?
10. When friends come to you for help, what kind of problems do they bring to you?
11. What do you want to know more about? How do you think it fits into your life?
12. Who has impressed you with their accomplishments? What have they accomplished and why?
13. What luxury in your life can't you live without? Why? What does it provide you?
14. What are you interested in that your friends don't know about?
15. Among your friends and family, what are you famous for? How did this fame come about?
16. How different was your life one year ago? What has changed? Why did it change?
17. What is special about the place you grew up? Be specific.
18. What is the most impressive thing you know how to do? Explain.
19. What are you most insecure about in your life? How has this insecurity contributed to shaping you?
20. What is something that you really good at, but are embarrassed that you are really good at it? What has caused you to be embarrassed about this?
21. What dumb accomplishment are you most proud of? Why?
22. What is something that you keep messing up regardless of how many times, or how hard, you try?
23. How do you get in the way of your own success? Do you think this is a permanent condition?
24. What do you have doubts about? Where did those doubts originate?

25. If, as the metaphor goes, life is a game, what are some of your rules?
26. What habits, behaviors, values, and/or attitudes would your friends say are “so you”?
27. What gets you worked up? Why does it get you worked up?
28. What do you consider a good life? Where do these ideas about what is “good” come from?
29. What have been some of the turning points in your life?
30. What are three interesting facts about you that most people don’t know?
31. What is the hardest lesson you have learned in your life so far?
32. What do people that know you think is weird about you?
33. What is the best thing that you got from your parents? What is it about this that you value?
34. What is the smell of your childhood?
35. What are your favorite smells? What memories do they trigger?
36. What do you like the feel of when you touch it? How would you describe touching it?
37. What lifestyle change have you considered making for a while now? What is preventing you from making it?
38. What would be your spirit animal? Describe what connection you have to this animal and why?