



ENG 1133 Assignment | Interest Inventory

"Yes, in all my research, the greatest leaders looked inward and were able to tell a good story with authenticity and passion."

– **Depak Chopra**

What are you good at and what do you have to say about this? What have you failed at? What is on the horizon of your interests?

It's time for you to really start considering what makes you tick.

Directions

Compose your response in one document by following the directions below. Upload your assignment to Dropbox by next Tuesday, February 16th.

- 1) Create a document and make a detailed list of 25 specific things that you are interested in and write a short paragraph for each. For example, you might include:
 - a. Community web sites (e.g. Reddit, Metafilter, Quora).
 - b. The culture surrounding "sneakers" and the people who collect them.
 - c. Designing and soldering circuits.
 - d. Hacking Linux boxes.
 - e. Domestic violence in professional sports.
 - f. Wingsuit flying.

What you want to be sure of is that your list of 25 items are not just general words (e.g., love, sports, poetry, music, etc.). You must write a carefully considered selection of what you spend your time thinking about, doing, not doing, etc.

So, rather than "guitars," you would write, "custom Japanese electric guitars." With each interest, write a two or three sentences about that interest.

This may require a bit of thinking and research on your part to articulate your interests well enough. Be sure to give yourself enough text to connect your interest to an external audience (i.e., me).

- 2) On another page of this document, make a detailed list of 15 specific things that you are good at. For example:
 - a. Designing custom vector graphics.
 - b. Sleight-of-hand card tricks.
 - c. Building and repairing old PCs.
 - d. Barbequing on a charcoal grill.
 - e. Talking about Real Housewives shows.

Your list of 15 items do not need to be interesting, highly skilled, or related to careers/school.

They simply need to be things that you are good at doing. For each, write two or three sentences about how you have come to be good at it.

- 3) On another page of that document, make a detailed list of 10 things that you have attempted and failed to do (or do well), or that you want to do but have failed to attempt because of a specific reason. For example:
- a. Learn to play the guitar.
 - b. Calculus.
 - c. Get accepted into NYU.
 - d. Draw a picture of your cat.

For each, write two or three sentences about why you attempted this thing and why you failed to succeed.

- 4) Finally, write two paragraphs about one thing you are passionate about—why you are passionate about it, how you explore that passion, and where into your life it fits.

Grading

This assignment is worth 30 points. Full credit will only be awarded to thoughtfully completed assignments. Credit cannot be awarded for work not done and deposited to Dropbox. Incomplete or missing assignments will be handled accordingly.