Fall 2011

Section 5359

Prof. Scanlan

Essay 1: The Personal Narrative

You have 50 minutes in which to write a personal narrative that addresses this prompt:

*Tell a detailed story about your best day of school (or work) in which you learned an important lesson. More specifically, write about one school (or work) day that helped you to think deeply about education and what it means to you.*

Your personal narrative will be graded in terms of the following five features:

1. A clear introduction—don’t forget a personalized title

2. A clear beginning, middle, and end

3. Concrete nouns for all places, people, and things

4. Well-structured sentences and paragraphs

5. A conclusion that compares your best educational experience with one idea or quotation from the following paragraph of Salvatore Scibona’s essay “Where I Learned to Read”:

“In retrospect, I was a sad little boy and a standard-issue, shiftless, egotistical, dejected teen-ager. Everything was going to hell, and then these strangers let me come to their college and showed me how to read. All things considered, every year since has been a more intense and enigmatic joy.”

Good luck, and remember, neatness counts.