# Unit One: From Personal to Public

## Part One: At Least 850 words. Due Feb 14

You’ve read "Outside, In" and “Hidden Intellectualism,” both 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 both Graff 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 both Graff 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.

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 detaileddescriptions)

* Due Jan 31: Read and annotate “Hidden Intellectualism” by Gerald Graff. Write a “lowkey” response: How does this relate to your own experiences with education?
* 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

## Part Two. At least 800 Words. Due Feb 26.

For part two of this assignment, you will be writing an 800-word reflection on education in America, using as your sources: Sir Ken Robinson, your peers’ papers, and your own experience.

I would like you to think about the following questions:

*How well do you think the education system is functioning in America? What do you think is working well? Poorly? What do you think should be done?*

I want you to think through these ideas honestly, without trying to come up with simple solutions. With this in mind, I’m not asking you to come up with a big thesis statement in which you “solve” education in America. It’s possible that you won’t have a thesis at all. However, you need to bring in voices other than your own: those of your peers and Robinson. This essay also needs to be organized—which means you will definitely need to write two drafts: one in which you get your ideas down, and another in which you organize those ideas a bit so they make sense to your readers.

You can write it in whatever diction you like, as long as that language is consistent. You must quote at least three of your peers and have at least one quote from Sir Ken Robinson (even if it’s to disagree with him.)

*You will be graded on: proper quotation and citation and (mostly) ANALYSIS. Are you LISTENING and RESPONDING to the scholars you are citing or are you just repeating (or ignoring) what they say? Are you responding to their ideas and bringing your voice into the mix?*

COLLEAGUES: HERE IS THE GENERAL UNIT PLAN:

T Day 1: Hello. Welcome to class. School is your JOB, etc… (Some sort of related icebreaker I haven’t quite figured out yet, etc…). One thing I've been thinking about here is how to develop a community of care.  There will be a questionnaire asking students their preferred names/ pronouns, hours they work and out-of-school obligations. Maybe we will also talk about how to manage school and out-of school obligations.

Introduce Assignment 1, Part 1.

**HW: Read and annotate “Hidden Intellectualism” by Gerald Graff. Write response (tbd)**

Th Day 2: In-Class, watch Ira Glass “On Storytelling” and talk about anecdote and reflection as building blocks. Do concrete, significant detail exercise about education, and then write a reflection component.

**HW: Read and annotate “Outside, In” by Barbara Mellix. Triple Entry Journal. Read Quotation Handout.**

T Day 3: Discuss Mellix. Look at how she uses anecdote and reflection. Work on quotation in class. Discuss Shitty First drafts. Write Shitty first drafts in class.

**HW: A less shitty first draft.**

Th Day 4: Peer review and discussion of speaker, occasion and audience. Who are YOU? (as speaker) Who do you want to talk to? Begin discission of "Cell Phones and Your Brain" and writing class cell phone policy

**HW: Final Draft Part one**

Th Day 5: PAPER ONE PART ONE DUE. Proofreading and citation. Watch Sir Ken Robinson RSA animate on “changing education paradigms” They will do a double-entry journal. In this, while watching, they fill out one column with 5-6 quotes that stand out to them as important or noteworthy. Afterwards, in another column, they respond to these quotes. What stood out? What do they think of it? How does what Robinson is saying relate to their own educational experience? I will compile eBook of student work by Sat. They will be put in groups so everyone will be read.

**HW: Read three student essays in your group and do triple-entry journal on them**

T Day 6: Discuss part two of the assignment

Re-watch RSA animate and do some in-class research on an aspect of education that Robinson brings up that you think may be pertinent to your reflection (use KWL+ formula)

**HW: rough draft**

Th Day 7: Think tank peer review (work together to solve the education problem.) Mention essay three—solving community problems (to get them thinking about what problems they might want to work on.) Work on essays in class. Full draft due on Tuesday. Talk about structure.

**HW: Final draft**

**Texts:**

* **"Outside, In" Barbara Mellix**
* **"Hidden Intellectualism" Gerald Graff**
* **"So What? Who Cares?" from *They Say/ I Say***
* **Chapter on Quotation from *They Say/ I Say***
* **"Shitty First Drafts" by Anne Lamott**
* **"On Storytelling" by Ira Glass (video)**
* **"Changing Education Paradigms" by Sir Ken Robinson (video)**