

# Unit One: From Personal to Public



## Part One (75%) At least 850 Words. Due Sept 12.

You've read "Mother Tongue," and an excerpt from **Voices of the Self**, 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 Tan and Gilyard 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 Tan and Gilyard 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. I am also looking for you to use the building blocks of anecdote (story) and reflection (explaining why this story is important) that we have discussed in class. That is, I want you to, not only write about your educational experiences, but also to take a step back and look at the larger picture. What do you want your audience to take away from your story?

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.

### **You will be graded on:**

- **Concrete, significant detail (are you painting us a picture?)**
- **The thoughtfulness of your reflections (is there a point?)**
- **The carefulness of your proofreading and organization (it doesn't have to be written in "Standard Written English," (SWE) but it does have to be written with care. You should be able to explain why you made the language choices you did, SWE or not!**
- **Word count: At least 850 words!**
- **Whether or not it's on time (see late policy!)**