Essay 1: Introducing yourself through your passion, philosophy, and vision of your future

**In-Class Draft**:

As you begin college, you will find yourself telling people who you are and where you’re going. You have already begun to introduce yourself to our Learning Community by identifying something that makes you interesting—often this was something you are passionate about or that you hold as a philosophy. In this essay, present yourself more fully to our Learning Community by sharing what your passion in life is, what your life philosophy is, and where you see yourself in the next five to ten years. These might not be discrete elements—that is, you might see yourself doing what you’re passionate about, or you might have a philosophy that dictates what you’ll be doing in the next ten years. You can organize your response as you see appropriate. Feel free to use “I” in writing this self-introduction. Include an introduction to let your reader know *what’s up*—the middle part of your essay will convey *how come*—and a conclusion to let your audience know *so what*.

**Advice**:

You should have started freewriting about your passion, philosophy, and future for homework. Make an outline or a list of all the points you want to address in your essay. Think about how you want to organize your essay, what order you need to go in to introduce yourself, and how you can make the essay really represent you. Take some time to plan, some time to write, and some time to re-read and make corrections.

Your in-class draft should be approximately 400 words. If you get 5 words per line and there are 20 lines per page in a blue book, that’s 4 pages in a blue book. If you get 10 words per line, that’s 2 pages. If you write 10 words per line but skip lines, that’s 4 pages. Rather than counting words, spend your time planning, writing, and re-reading—you can count a few lines and use that as a guide to figure out how many words per page you’re writing.

**Final version:**

In addition to what you will have written for the in-class draft, you will now find or create a photograph or image that depicts your passion, philosophy, or future. Using the techniques for reading an image that we will discuss in class, describe the photograph in detail and explain how this photograph represent your passion OR philosophy OR vision of your future in five or ten years. Additionally, consider in your essay the ways the photograph does not represent what you want it to, and how your classmates might read it differently than how you intend for it to be read.

**Advice:**

To complete Essay 1, you will work through several drafts to develop a polished, well-planned, well-written essay that begins with an introductory paragraph that includes a thesis statement, addresses each aspect of the assignment, and ends with a concluding paragraph. Use what you wrote in class and in your blog post about your photograph as the basis for Essay 1. You might find that you want to go in a different direction than what you wrote for each part, and you certainly can, but keep in mind your new due date.

Write an outline of what you want to include in your essay. When you finish a draft, write a phrase or sentence about each paragraph to see an outline of the essay you have written. Use both your initial plan and your re-outline to help you develop your essay.

Your finished essay should be approximately 600-900 words, which is approximately two to three typed pages.

Please use your computer’s spell-check program and your own eyes and ears to check for correctness before submitting your final version. Leave yourself time to seek advice from a trusted friend or family member, someone in the Learning Center, or your professor during office hours.

Your image or photograph can become your OpenLab avatar, or it could become the avatar you use for your ePortfolio, or both. Your essay can become part of your ePortfolio, and can be a starting point for what you will come to put in that space as you pursue your degree at City Tech.

**Schedule:**

All parts of this project add up to 10 points, or 10% of your final grade

In-class draft: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 [2.5 of 10 points]

Photograph and blog post: due before class on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 [.5 of 10 points]

Final version: due Wednesday, September 12, 2012—in class and online (instructions to follow) [6.5 of 10 points]

Cover letter: written in class on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 (instructions to follow) [.5 of 10 points]