

21W.011/Walsh

Fall 2015

**MY WRITING LIFE: A WRITER'S LETTER**

**Due: Fri. 9/11 by midnight over email (as a Word document or PDF).**

**Suggested length: 1 1/2-2 typed pages (250-375 words), double-spaced.**

We open the term with a reflection on your past experiences with writing: what has worked for you so far as a writer, what aspects of your writing are satisfying to you versus those which are less so and what you hope to accomplish in this course.

Please write me a letter that presents a portrait of yourself as a writer. **These questions are intended as a guide; you do not need to address all of these questions or answer them in a list-like fashion.** Create an engaging, well-organized and readable narrative. During the term, you may want to revisit this letter to reflect on your progress in meeting your goals for yourself this term.

**SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

How often do you write (a) for courses/assignments (b) for pleasure (c) for other purposes (e.g. job, student publication)? How often do you wish you wrote?

What past piece(s) of writing are you most proud of? Why?

What did you write your college admissions essay about? What was that writing process like?

How would you characterize yourself as a writer (this characterization may differ with specific kinds of writing such as technical and scientific writing, personal essays, poetry, science fiction, etc.)?

What "writing rituals" (e.g., place to write, music, etc.) do you have? Do you usually ask for feedback? If "yes", who provides feedback (e.g., teachers, family members, friends)?

Do you revise your work? How often?

What do you like to read? Are there any specific authors who have inspired you as a writer? Are there any musicians, artists, films or filmmakers who have inspired you?

What influences have been most helpful for you as a writer (e.g., friends/family, classes, religious, political)?

What has your experience in writing or English classes been like? Are you a fluent speaker of another language(s)? If "yes", what language(s)? Do you write in that language(s)? How does your experience writing in that language influence your writing in English?

How did you decide to take this course? What social and ethical issues interest you? What are your primary goals for yourself as a writer this term?

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21W.011 Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues  
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