

MIT: Inside, Live

One Writer's Beginnings, Part II

So, your final assignment is a return to the “One Writer’s Beginnings” that you wrote for our second class. Both should be included inside, or accompanying, your final portfolio.

For this, I’d like you to go back and read that first piece you did for this class. Then write an update. As with the first “One Writer’s Beginnings,” don’t worry about writing a well-crafted essay but simply address your own writing experience over the course of the semester.

Ask yourself what, if anything, has changed about the way you write, or what you like or don’t like about writing.

Do you think you know anything more about writing, and your writing in particular, than you did thirteen weeks ago? What have you learned?

Do you go through basically the same process when you tackle a writing task as you did before or has it changed in any ways? How do you approach the different steps in the process: coming up with an idea, free writing, writing first versions, revising, titling, polishing? Do you feel the same frustrations or new ones; have some of them lessened or grown? What have you enjoyed, if anything, about writing this semester? Would you consider yourself more or less competent, at what?

Has your attitude about sharing your work and getting responses from others, written or in workshop, stayed the same or changed? What has been valuable in the responses you have gotten? Have they been insightful, useful, inspiring, demoralizing, frustrating, or some of all? How about your view of yourself as a reader and someone capable of discussing and responding to others’ writing?

Has your general view of yourself as a writer and your writing future changed at all?

Do you think about participating in discussion—in exchange with a group of peers—any differently? Do you feel any differently about it?

NOTE: I’d like you to touch on the points outlined above, but you don’t have to answer them in the order I have raised them.

Portfolios

Now is also the time to step back and see what you have in your three main revised pieces of writing as you assemble your final portfolio. You’ll want to think about how best to present your work—**giving your portfolio a title, ordering your writing, and perhaps adding an introduction** or other short material that might enhance it. All of you will want, at a minimum, to **revisit all of your writing for a final polishing**, and some of you will need to do a bit more significant revision on at least some of your work. You can include pictures if you wish, and you can add a table of contents. You can bind your portfolio inexpensively at Copy Tech or get an inexpensive folder or binder at the COOP. I recommend two copies—one for you and one for me.

During our last class, I will hand around a permission form for you to give me permission (or not) to use some or all of your writing as a (positive, of course) model in future classes. In my responses to your portfolios, I will include **your grade for the portfolio, your grade for class participation (which includes all the informal writing and discussion), and your final grade which combines the two.**

For me, it's been, overall, a good semester, and I hope you can take real satisfaction in the work you have done in these few busy weeks and even enjoy collecting what you have written. I certainly have enjoyed your engaging writing, some of which I hope to see permanently and publically available in *Angles*.

In my responses to your portfolio, which I will email out during the week after our last classes, I will include your grade. I'm looking forward to reading your portfolios and revisiting your semester's work put together in final, polished form!

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