

Sketch Draft for “Why I Write” Essay

By: Kaitlynn Bayne

Argument: I write because I am shy and writing is a way to express my thoughts and opinions.

Style of writing: Real-time description/explanation of why I write.

Outline:

P1: Create setting- A group discussion on politics? (Preferably something less controversial) I have so many things to say but I can't build up the courage to say it.

P2: Explain inability to articulate my thoughts in high-pressure situations. The want to say something but being held back, knowing that what I want to say won't come out nicely and people may not find my opinions valid because of this. Real-time thoughts going through head, knowing the outcome of trying to articulate my opinions.

P3: Build-up of pressure, heart pounding, etc. as the discussion continues: the thoughts running through my head, the desire to be heard. Feeling like I'm going crazy, the necessity to do something about it. Short, to-the-point thoughts running through head. The desire to leave the situation to voice my opinion.

P4: Leaving the group setting, running home to write in a journal. Relief that comes as I write down my thoughts- the ability to say what I want to say. The stress begins to pour away and my self-confidence sky rockets. The ability to explain what you are trying to say and really emphasize your argument. \*\*Fast-paced, because all of my thoughts/opinions pour out.

**Comment [RM1]:** I love this basic idea, AND I wonder if by the time you've drafted, you can arrive at a more concrete, specific-to-you way of what this means? Right now it's a broad generalization that could apply to almost any writer (except for the shy part), which is totally fine for a sketch draft. I just want you to push yourself to get concrete. ☺

Another question: I wonder what “shy” means for you, specifically? For instance, I'm outgoing, but I'm also an introvert, which means that shyness pops up in surprising ways for me—I can be gregarious and open and uninhibited with strangers, but with people I love, I sometimes can't even make eye contact. (I'm sure your own specific shyness will become clear as you write, but I want you to think about how best to convey it.)

**Comment [RM2]:** Interesting—what makes you think it should be less controversial? What aspect of your particular brand of shyness might a less controversial scenario allow you to demonstrate?

**Comment [RM3]:** Also interesting—what do you mean by “nicely?” Are you getting at a sense of propriety? Politeness? Articulateness? Such rich possibilities here.

**Comment [RM4]:** Great! So I was kind of imagining the earlier part being fast-paced (probably a function of how my own internal panic works)...how do you imagine “fast paced” to play out here? Short sentences? Longer sentences with less punctuation? Something else entirely?

Regarding your question about whether this paragraph is enough to convey the sense that this is a real-time inside look, it very well could be—but I think it's all in the execution. I think there are ways to make that clear throughout, as well. (Maybe you set up a narrative frame, with a voice outside you as well as inside you, for instance? Or I'm sure you've got ideas...)