

WRITING 200.002 Winter 2014

Essay 1 – “Why I Write”

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this essay is to explore the statement “Why I Write” and to come up with a provisional – yet, for the moment, true – response.

- A sub-objective of this assignment is to begin to think more deeply about the goals you have for yourself as a writer that you might begin to achieve in this class and in the Minor.

STRUCTURE AND ARGUMENT

The structure of this essay is up to you. You now have three exemplars that handle the question, though your essay may approach it quite differently from any of theirs—the world is your oyster. You may wish to mount an argument that builds from a thesis to a conclusion, offering evidence for each claim. You may wish to compose a narrative that begins from a key moment and expands from it into the past and future. You may wish to offer a close reading of a passage from your own or another’s writing as a way of getting at your broader claims about yourself as a writer. Or you may have a completely different idea in mind.

Regardless of the structure you choose, your essay needs to be governed by a guiding idea and it needs to demonstrate this idea through detailed evidence and careful analysis.

FORMAT

Please give your essay a title and page numbers. In general, I encourage you to double space it, and use 1” margins and a standard font, unless the aesthetic considerations of format are explicitly part of your purpose and argument. You are welcome to employ visual rhetoric by including images, but again, these must have a clear purpose and argument within the essay.

Your essay should be 800-1200 words.

DUE DATES

Thursday 1/23 Full draft (with self-reflective comments) due by class (posted to CTools Assignments)

Sunday 2/9 “Final” draft (with reflective component) due on CTools Assignments by 11:55 PM