

Will The Real Me Please Step Forward?



"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself."

--Albert Camus

PURPOSE: The beauty of a narrative is the basis it has in truth and perspective. Both are yours. A narrative is one possession in the world that can be completely and wholly owned by you. I'm not sure whether to claim if this assignment is more about writing or more about you. I guess I will have to resign saying it is a bit of both. The main writing standards we will focus on in this project are **WORD CHOICE** and **SENTENCE VARIATION**.

"Anyone who believes you can't change history has never tried to write his memoirs."

--David Ben Gurion

REQUIREMENTS: You will be required to turn in a narrative with at least 8 chapters. Your entries will be guided, but you may choose from several options. One question that always surfaces is that of length. I would recommend that each entry have at least 150-200 words. However, your writing will be graded on writing style, your voice, and your attention to detail and word choice. While this is a documentation of your life, it also will be graded. So, paying attention to grammar, spelling, and sentence structure is of paramount importance. You should write a first draft before placing the final draft into your book. Everything should be written in Standard American English.

"I am writing in the garden. To write as one should of a garden one must write not outside it or merely somewhere near it, but in the garden."

--Frances Hodgson Burnett

GRADING: I will be grading on a 150 point scale. This is a massive assignment and will be due on _____. One of the best qualities in journal, memoir and diary writing is honesty. Make sure to think out loud on paper in an honest fashion. I will especially be looking at the **WORD CHOICE** and **SENTENCE VARIATION** that you will use in your writing. This project is meant to help you become comfortable and confident in your writing. These skills will be transferable to the state exam. Many of these topics are of a personal nature. Make sure to choose topics you are comfortable expressing. Please know that it is my job to report extremely sensitive topics that might put you in danger. If you are in a dangerous situation and you write about it, I will have to consult other adults and report to CPS.

"The reality is more excellent than the report."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Below is a list of the possible entries:

1. My Family
How has your family shaped who you are? Describe the members of your family and the relationship you have with them.
2. My Room
You can tell a lot about a person from their room. This entry should be written while sitting in your room. Draw a diagram of your room and describe how you have decorated your room. What posters, music, and other objects might one find if they explored your room? Also, you might consider how someone might think of you if they had never met you but had seen your room.
3. My Dreams
Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What are some of your biggest goals or dreams in life? How do you want to change? What do you want to keep the same?
4. My Fears
IN the grand scheme of life, what are your biggest fears? Why do you have these fears? Give some real life examples of times in which you have had these fears.
5. Love
How do you feel about love? Do you feel you have ever been in love? If not, what do you think it might feel like? How do you know if you are in love?
6. Loss
Have you ever experienced a deep loss? What was it like? How do you deal with loss? If you have never suffered a loss, how do you think you might react?
7. Regret
Have you ever done anything you regret? If you could go back and change one thing about your life so far, what would you change? Are you the type of person who has lots of regrets or the type of person who moves on? Which would you prefer to be?
8. My Friends
How do you feel about your friendships? Do you trust your friends? Do you feel as though you have real friends? What do you look for in a friend? Are you a real friend? Explain why friendship is more complicated than many people think.
9. My School
How much does school define you? Are you the same person at school that you are at home? In front of your friends? What makes people act differently in different places? Do you act differently according to your environment? Does it bug you when other people do?

10. My Values

What values do you hold dearest? What do you think are the most important qualities in another human being? What values do you try the most to uphold? Some possible values are: honor, pride, religion/ faith, family, memories, friendship, thoughts, understanding of the world, peace, achievement, art, money, fun, independence, recreation, self-control, sympathy, unity, wisdom, wealth, or other.

11. My Perceptions

How do you look at, or perceive, other people, ideas and your general world? Do you see the world differently than others? Why? For instance, are you a pessimist or an optimist? Give some evidence to support your claim by citing a time when something happened and how you reacted or internalized that event.

12. My Favorites

What is your favorite movie, music, book, or other? Choose ONE favorite item in your life to write about. Feel free to include quotations from your favorite movie or song and explain what they mean to you. For this entry make sure you talk about WHY you like that movie, book, song, or other.

13. How I Talk/ How I Text

How does language change with the way you talk or text. Give an example dialogue of the way you talk or text and explain what this says about you. How do you change language to suit your personality? How do others change language? What do you like and what bothers you in the texting world?

14. My Community

How does where you live affect who you are? What do you like and dislike about the community you live in? You could discuss an apartment community, your neighborhood, your town, or even your state. Do you like where you live? Does it enhance your life or hold you back? Explain.

15. My Talents

Do you feel that you have any special talents? If so, what are these talents and how do you utilize them? Do you ever feel that others do not recognize your talents? Do you ever feel that others think you are more talented than you actually are? What kind of pressure do you put on yourself to succeed? Explain how being talented can be both a blessing and a curse.

16. My Technology

Are you the same person online and in person? How does your technology shape who you are? What technology is most important to you and why does it reflect your personality?

17. Wild Card

After reading through the possible topics, are there any other topics you feel inspired to write about? If so, create your own topic and get it approved by Mrs. Brim. This can count as one of your 8 entries.

"Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart..."

--William Wordsworth