

Writing Assignment 2



For your second writing assignment, consider this exercise from the writer Bruce Ballenger's textbook, *The Curious Writer* (2016):

"Think about things, ordinary objects, that you have held onto all these years because you simply can't throw them away. They *mean* something to you. They are reminders of another time, or a turning point in your life, or a particular moment of joy, or sadness, or perhaps fear. Consider a few of mine: a green plaster Buddha, handmade; a glow-in-the-dark crucifix; an old pair of 7 X 50 Nikon binoculars; a 1969 Martin D 28 guitar; a brown-handled flathead screwdriver with a touch of red nail polish on the handle; a homemade lamp made from a wooden wallpaper roller; a red dog's collar. While they are meaningless to you, naturally, to me each of these objects carries a charge; they remind me of a story, a moment, a feeling. The personal essay makes space for writers to explore the meanings of such ordinary things" (p. 75).

Pick one ordinary object and explain its meaning to you in a two- to four-page essay, using specific single-moment evidence and details to tell a story.

Here are two things that are particularly important to this assignment:

- Do more than tell a story. There must be a *purpose* behind telling the story that speaks in some way to someone else. It should, ultimately, answer the *So what?* Question – why does this matter in a larger context, beyond your particular experience?
- Be richly detailed. Seize opportunities to *show* what you mean rather than simply explain it.

Purpose: To use an object to open your readers' eyes to something new.

Audience: Your choice, although it must be more than one person and appropriate to your purpose. Be sure to attach a **brief audience description** to your draft, using proper APA format for an Appendix.

Due Date: Writing Assignment 2 is due by midnight on Sunday, November 3. Final papers must at least two pages long, follow proper APA format, and be edited carefully.