

Writing Assignment 1

Chapter 1 of Guptill's textbook talks about the difference between high school and college, along with some of the expectations for college writing. How we approach writing in college, though, is based on previous experiences we have had. Understanding those experiences will help us understand ourselves as writers better. This will only make us better communicators, and as Guptill (2016) says, "Communication isn't just about expressing yourself; it's about connecting with others. And it's other people—in families, couples, communities, and workplaces—that shape the most important experiences of your life" (p. 7).

In this essay, you will practice communicating your past experiences with writing in order to help me learn more about you as a writer and learner.

Select one or more of the four questions posed, and write a two- to four-page essay in which you explore your background as a writer.

Here are the four questions:

(1) What is your earliest memory of writing? Tell the story.

(2) We usually divide our experiences as writers into private writing and school writing, or writing we do by choice and writing we are required to do for a grade. Let's focus on school writing. Tell the story of a teacher, a class, an essay, an exam, or a moment that you consider a *turning point* in your understanding of yourself as a writer or your understanding of school writing.

(3) Writing is part of the fabric of everyday life in the United States, and this is truer than ever with Internet communication. Describe the roles that writing plays in a typical day for you. How have these daily roles of writing changed in your lifetime so far?

(4) What is the most successful (or least successful) thing you've ever written in or out of school? Tell the story.

Do not attempt to answer all four questions. It is better to answer one question fully than four questions shallowly. Conclude your paper by answering "So *what?*" -- what impact have these experiences had on you? Why do they matter? How have they made you the type of writer you are?

Purpose: To introduce yourself by telling detailed narratives about a moment or two in your background as a writer.

Audience: Your professor.

Final papers must be in proper APA format (see [APA Sample Essay](#) and [APA Template](#)) and edited carefully. Please be sure your Turnitin score is below 10%. Writing Assignment 1 is due by midnight on Sunday, September 3.