English 101 Essay 1: A Self-Portrait: Who do you want to be and why?

In this first essay of the semester, and your college career in composition, you will be given the opportunity to reflect on yourself both personally and professionally. You have made a choice to come to college. That's right, **CHOICE.** You do not have to be here. You have taken a bold step to further your education. The very important question is **WHY?**

- ❖ Why are you in college?
- ❖ What are you majoring in?
- ❖ What career do you envision yourself having?
- ❖ Why that career?
- ❖ What is it you want to do with your life personally and professionally?
- ❖ What do you think you need to do to get there?

These are the very difficult questions this essay asks you to explore. You may not think they are that difficult, but deciding why you want something and how you are actually going to get it is a lot more difficult than you may think.

Form: This is a narrative essay. As you know from our class discussions and readings that means it is a story. You can write in the first-person. Remember the elements of formal writing including introductions and conclusions.

Thesis: Your thesis for this essay should explain why you are in college and what you want to do in the future. From there you can develop a story to explain and support this thesis.

Audience: Your audience for this essay is your classmates. These will be shared throughout the drafting stages and briefly on the due date in order to build our classroom community for the semester, understand each other's goals, and learn how we can build support systems for one another to reach them.

Brass Tacks:

- 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt readable font
- Narrative form
- Follows formatting guide in syllabus
- 2 meaningful images that enhance the essay content

How I will Evaluate Your Essay

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your essay draft. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your essay draft will determine 10%**(2.5% draft w/workshop participation and 7.5% final)** of your final grade for each one, 30% total.

In order to earn a "B" grade for that 10% (2.5% draft w/workshop participation and 7.5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt.
- Write an essay that is at least three pages . It can be over. It can't be under.
- Use examples from your personal life
- Applies the elements of narrative writing
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion

In order to earn an "A" grade for that 10% (2.5% draft w/workshop participation and 7.5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt.
- Write an essay that is at least three to four pages .
- Use examples from your personal life with attention to detail
- Applies multiple elements of narrative writing in a clear way
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion

In order to earn a "C" grade for that 10% (2.5% draft w/workshop participation and 7.5% final)

- You must complete the workshop draft and the revised draft that is turned into me.
- Respond to the prompt.
- Write an essay that is less than three pages.
- Use some examples from your personal life but not in a clear way to support the argument.
- Shows minimal understanding of the elements of narrative writing
- Does not contain a complete thesis, intro, or conclusion.
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If you do not meet the requirements for a “C” paper, you will fail the paper for that 10% of your grade.