

WRITER'S LETTER ASSIGNMENT

Suggested length: 1-2 typed pages, double-spaced. Please keep a copy for yourself.

Throughout the semester, I will ask you to keep a constant finger on the pulse of your own work with each writing assignment. As I read your work, I will do so developmentally, considering your progress from the previous assignment and your goals for the next one. We open the term, then with a reflection on your own experiences with writing: what has worked for you so far as a writer, what aspects of your writing are satisfying to you versus those which are less so, what you hope to accomplish in this course and so on.

Please write me a letter that presents a portrait of yourself as a writer. These questions are intended as a guide. Don't answer these questions in a list-like fashion! Create an engaging, well-organized and readable narrative.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How often do you write (a) for courses/assignments (b) for pleasure (c) for other purposes (e.g. job, student publication)? How often do you wish you wrote?

What past piece(s) of writing are you most proud of? Why?

How would you characterize yourself as a writer (this characterization may differ with specific kinds of writing such as technical and scientific writing, personal essays, poetry, science fiction, etc.)?

What "writing rituals" (e.g. place to write, music, etc.) do you have? Do you usually ask for feedback? If "yes" to the last question, who provides feedback on your writing (e.g. teachers, tutors, family members, friends)?

Do you revise your work?

What do you like to read? Are there any specific authors who have inspired you as a writer?

What influences have been most helpful for you as a writer (e.g. friends/family, classes, religious, political)?

What has your experience in writing or English classes been like?

How did you decide to take this course? What social and ethical issues interest you as a writer?

What are your goals for yourself as a writer this term?

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21W.730 Writing on Contemporary Issues: Social and Ethical Issues
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