

21W.731

SPRING 2004

WRITING AND EXPERIENCE: EXPLORING SELF IN SOCIETY

WRITER'S LETTER ASSIGNMENT

Due: Thurs. 2/5. Suggested length: 1-1/2 typed pages, double-spaced.

Throughout the semester, I will ask you to keep a constant finger of 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 take a half-hour to an hour to create 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 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 do you like to read? Are there any specific authors who have inspired you as a writer?

Does the experience of writing vary for you with different types of writing (e.g., technical, expository, diary, fiction)? If "yes", say more.

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

What "writing rituals" (e.g. place to write, music, etc.) do you have?

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?

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