

21W.731
A. Walsh

WRITING AND EXPERIENCE
SPRING 2004

ESSAY #2 SEQUENCE

Essay #2: Suggested length: 6 pg., double-spaced. Please submit two copies with cover letter to me reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of the piece.

With revision, please include the marked-up draft (with my comments).

Due Date: First Version: Fri. 3/12: Email as Word attachment or drop at my office.

Email to small group workshop members.

Workshop: Tues., 3/16

Revision: Fri. 4/2 at my office. Include cover letter, two copies, marked-up draft and comments.

INTRODUCTION: Writers often use their (and others') experiences to reflect on a broad range of social and psychological issues relevant to a wider readership. This essay builds upon and extends the skills of Essay #1.

ASSIGNMENT: Explore an issue (psychological, social, ethical) through the lens of a past or current experience(s). The individual experience can be yours or that of someone else. As you narrate that experience to your readers, think carefully about your voice as a writer and the ways in which writing voice helps to establish your perspective for readers. In crafting the essay, pay careful attention to your narrative strategies:

- choices in narration (varieties of first person, third person, mixed narration);
- setting(s) as establishing a context for your essay;
- developing character and using dialogue;
- (if relevant) working within multiple time frames;
- using figurative language (metaphor, simile) when appropriate;
- providing a clear sense of the larger meaning of your piece while avoiding didacticism.

In this assignment, you should use at least two secondary sources in the revised version. As a writer, you can integrate these sources in one or both of these ways:

- (a) as support or clarification of your point of view
- (b) as counterargument to your perspective.

Be sure to cite your sources (use MLA form) and include a bibliography.

Your revision cover letter should explain how you chose these sources and how they influenced your thinking.

If you relate to other sources (from the course or your own reading) as “deep background” informing your writing style, approach or perspective, note in your cover letter (first version and/or revision) which readings influenced either your thinking about this topic or your style as a writer.