

Being a Writer

Habits of Mind Objectives: Focus, Advance, Link Up, Comprehend, Organize, New Ideas

Due Dates:

12 January – Prewriting - Free Write, Brainstorm

17 January – Continue Prewriting

19 January – Create Thesis statement and outline essay

26 January – Create rough draft and begin peer review process

2 February – Revised draft peer review and conferences

7 February – Final draft due at the beginning of class – please submit an electronic copy to turnitin.com before class and bring a hard copy to class.

While most of us are comfortable writing in multiple mediums, many of us are uncomfortable reading and writing at the academic level. When we begin our college careers, there is a lot of uncertainty about what it means to be an academic reader, writer, and thinker. College is a time to figure all of that out. For this assignment, identify what you think it means to be a reader and writer as college student and what you hope to accomplish as a thinker. Think about what steps, actions, resources, and mindsets are needed to write at the college level. What does it mean to be a writer? Reader? Why do we read and write? Why are setbacks important for success? Here is your prompt:

What does it mean to be a reader and writer in college? What are the expectations and challenges of being an academic reader and writer? Why is this important?

A successful essay will include:

- Following the prompt
- A central topic or idea (thesis statement)
- Make sure to address the fixed and growth mindsets
- Several supporting details that are clear and strong from the text in MLA format (at least 4 in-text citations)
- You can use 1st person
- Organized and focused
- Clear sentences (the reader should not have any questions about what you are writing about)
- In Standard Formal English

As you are writing your essay, please keep in mind your purpose, audience, point of view, style, and tone. Try to be as consistent as possible.

Have fun with this essay; use concrete and specific descriptions in your writing. **Focus** on your essay's **organization** and incorporate **new ideas**/risks in your writing. Your essay is to be 5 - 6 pages (at least 1,500 words), in MLA Format – Times New Roman, 12point font, one-inch margins, and double spaced. At least 4 in-text citations need to be present. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please email me. Good Luck!

Readings:

Dweck “Brainology”

Urban “Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator”

Simic “A Reunion with Boredom”

King “Reading to Write”

Alexie “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me”

Douglass “Learning to Read and Write”

Malcolm X “Learning to Read”

Prewriting:

Free write: What are your expectations on being a writer as a college student? What do other people expect of you as a writer? How do Urban, Dweck, and Dmochoski connect to your thoughts? Don't worry about spelling, punctuation, or the quality of ideas. Just write. Think on the paper.

Brain storm: Pick one or two ideas in the free write and expand on them. Develop the images into phrases, and sentences. Use the whole page, use multiple pages. Show where there is evidence of fixed and growth mindset.