

Essay 2—The Profile

This unit we will be working on a profile. It is an essay that asks you to take a position and angle toward a subject—a person, group, place, or event—and relate that subject to a larger audience. It is a paper that asks you to go out into the world and report back with the amazing stories, details, and observations you have gathered.

Requirements: **4-6 pages**. Proper MLA format. 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins.

Rough Draft Due: M, Sep 28th, First Draft Due: W, Sep 30th, Final Draft Due: F, Oct 2nd at the beginning of class. Late papers will receive points off for each day they are late.

In class, we will brainstorm topics and interesting subjects, explore the campus for possible paper ideas, examine ways to go about researching both directly and indirectly, and look at several examples. Refer to these when you begin drafting your essay.

What I'll be looking for:

1. **Significance:** Your essay must clearly exhibit a voice of reasoning and provide reflection on the subject and its importance to larger audience. By paying close attention to word choices and phrase usage, you should be able to convey why your subject has a broader significance than just being someone or something important to you.
2. **Appropriate and Interesting detail:** Your essay should exhibit writing that is both clear and vivid. You should utilize first hand observation and second hand research into your profile. Sorting through all of this information and curating the most relevant details is crucial to your profile. Your essay depends on your ability to be descriptive.
3. **Picking an Angle:** Your profile should a distinct angle through which the information is presented. This means you must have a good deal of knowledge about your subject so you can figure out how you want to present it to your audience. What would you like them to take away? In selecting an angle, you should figure out what makes your subject unique.
4. **Logical and Organized Structure:** Since profiles can have unconventional structures, I should be able to tell that you have put thought into the way you present your essay. For instance, where does the biographical or more formal information go? How is the reader brought along on a journey of exploration? The structure and organization of your essay should be attentive to the needs of both your subject and your reader.
5. **So what?:** Your essay should interest the reader and capture their attention from the very beginning. This means that you should have a specific audience in mind that you are writing to. By the end of the essay, the reader should be able to recognize your intentions for presenting the information that you've provided. Don't tell us what you want us to understand; show us through the use of interesting detail and observation. We should be able to pull the meaning out of the context of your essay.
6. **Grammar and Proofreading:** Your essay should be free of grammatical errors. I do not expect your papers to be perfect, but misspelled words, comma splices, and other errors will not help your grade. Please read your papers carefully and edit them to the best of your ability.