

Essay 2 – The Profile

For this unit, you will write a **profile**, which is an essay that describes a **subject** – person, place, group, or event – using a distinct **angle**. The sole requirement for the topic of this essay is that it must be local to Stillwater or the OSU campus. The assignment builds on the descriptive skills developed in the first unit, and throughout your profile you should continue to emphasize **sensory detail**. You must additionally research appropriate background or context and conduct an interview. **Conducting an interview is a mandatory component of this assignment.** You should select appropriate details to present your profile through a distinct angle that presents the subject in a new and interesting way to the selected audience.

Purpose and Audience: You should write your profile as if it you were pitching it to be published in a magazine of your choice. You should consider the audience of the magazine and the types of profiles that they usually include. You must specify the selected publication and audience when “pitching” your topic and include this information on each draft of your paper.

Assignment Outcomes:

By this end of this unit, all students will:

- ✓ Interpret and explain vivid details through inquiry and observation, and then characterize those details in the form of a profile constructed for a general/public audience.
- ✓ Develop further the ability to select and organize details to reveal an interesting topic, present a particular angle, and define a topic’s significance through the profile genre.
- ✓ Revise and edit multiple drafts to produce writing that is well organized, mechanically and grammatically sound, and mostly error free.
- ✓ Provide effective feedback on the writing of their peers, and both reflect upon and incorporate peer and instructor feedback through editing and revision processes.

Requirements: 1200-1800 words; MLA format; 12 pt. Times New Roman font; 1-inch margins

Pitch Email Due on Dropbox: TH, Sep 20th by 11:59pm

Preview Draft Due: TH, Sep 27th **before class** **Final Essay Due:** TH, Oct 4th by 11:59pm

Late papers will receive points off for each day late.

Step-by-Step Process:

1. Choose a topic. *Keep in mind that you should focus on a subject in Stillwater or on the OSU campus.* Examples will be provided.
2. Define and consider the rhetorical situation (including purpose, audience, angle, & medium).
3. Select a person to interview. If your subject is a person, you may interview the subject themselves. If you are writing about a place, consider interviewing people that go to or work in that space. If you are writing about a group, you might interview a member or sponsor of the group. If you are writing about an event, you could interview an attendee or an organizer.
4. **Pitch** your essay to the publication you have selected as your audience by writing an email to its editor explaining the subject of your profile and who you will interview for your research.
5. Research appropriate background and observe details to help create an interesting profile.
6. Develop interview questions to ask the interview subject and conduct the interview.
7. Select an angle and choose which details to include in your profile.
8. **Submit a preview draft** for peer editing. Based on this feedback, **write a revision plan.**
9. You will discuss the paper and your revision plan with the instructor in small groups.
10. **Submit a revised final essay on D2L.**

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Revision Plans: After completing a peer review workshop, you will compose a revision plan (500 words) that explains your overall goals for revisions you will make from your draft to final essay, as well as how and why you believe those revisions will improve the overall quality of your piece. You will submit this on Dropbox by **classtime on Tues, Oct. 2** and bring it with you to your group conference on **Tuesday, October 2nd** for discussion. Completing your revision plan on time will earn you 5% of the total points for this assignment.

Peer Review Workshop and Conference: Remember that peer review counts as its own assignment worth 50 points (these points are not part of the literacy narrative itself).

- Submit a complete draft to D2L on time for peer review. (10 points)
- Attend and actively participate in the workshop. (20 points)
- Complete worksheets on all assigned peer essays for review; post comments on D2L in **Discussions** providing constructive feedback to peers about **essay- or paragraph-level** issues (organization, content, etc.), & making revision suggestions. (20 points)
- Prepare for and attend an individual conference with me (no points associated with this task – missing a conference simply results in an unexcused absence).

Cover Letters: When you submit your final draft, you will include a letter to me (500 words) that introduces and explains your profile. This is a space for you to call attention to what you think you’re doing well, as well as those elements of the assignment you still feel uncertain about. Additionally, you should discuss the actual changes you made from the “pitch” email, to the preview draft, to the final essay. These changes may or may not match up with your earlier revision plan, and that is OK (you may discover new and better approaches to revision during the process or revising). Discuss **what you actually did** here, as well as **why**.

Evaluative Criteria	Points
Sensory Detail: The author uses relevant visual and sensory details from their own primary research to help immerse the reader. These details are related to the author’s chosen angle. There are many examples of showing instead of telling.	20
Angle: The author presents the subject through a distinct and interesting angle, using relevant background information about the subject (historical, cultural, personal, etc.) to help clarify the angle of their profile.	25
Organization: The essay displays a rhetorically effective and purposeful structure, and has a satisfying conclusion that indicates why the subject is significant or leaves the audience considering an important question.	25
Interview: The author conducts an interview and synthesizes relevant quotes and/or details into their profile.	15
Revisions: Author has completed an effective revision plan and cover letter and submitted both on time.	10
Editing: The essay is relatively free of grammar errors and typos.	5
Total	100

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