

No Warm-up Today

- We will be listening to a presentation on Poetry Out Loud in the library.

Personal Essay Writing

- You will need your notebook for notes

What is a personal essay?

- A personal essay explores a single event or single belief about someone.
- It is not just an outline of all events of one's life (that is an autobiography)

Two types

- There are two types of personal essays:
- The narrative
- The memoir

What is narrative writing?

- Narrative writing explores a single, significant event in one's life

What is personal memoir?

- Narrative writing displays a significant relationship between a person and a person, place, or object

Sample Narrative

- “My Pal, Robert”
- As we read, in your notebooks, write down
 1. The author’s purpose—why did he write this essay?
 2. Focused purpose—what is the author trying to say?
 3. Event Significance—what is the major event explored, and why is it significant?
 4. Supporting details—what are some details the author uses to support his major point?

Sample Memoir

- “My First Lifeline”
- As we read, in your notebooks, write down
 1. The author’s purpose—why did he write this essay?
 2. Focused purpose—what is the author trying to say?
 3. Significance—What person, place, or thing of the author’s life does he/she find significant, and why?
 4. Supporting details—what are some details the author uses to support his major point?

“This I Believe” Unit

- You will be writing about a time, event, person, etc. in your life that shapes a very specific belief that you have today.
- Be specific. Take your belief out from the surface and ground it in the events that have shaped your core values. Consider moments when belief was formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be *real*. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your specific claim/ belief.

Example Beliefs

- I believe in second chances.
- I believe in the power of prayer.
- I believe in mistakes.
- I believe in Tuolumne County.
- I believe in the little things.
- I believe in hugs.
- I believe in smiling on a hard day.
- And more!!!!

Classwork/Homework

- Choose TWO writing prompts to respond to in one page from the “Writer’s Notebook” cards provided on p. 11 of the “This I Believe” high school curriculum unit.
- This resource can be found on my class website, deweysenglish.weebly.com, then English I, today’s date, then the first attachment PAGE 11.