

Assignment 1

CORE 100 04A, Fall 2003

Write an essay on a characteristic of good teaching. Your essay should make its point by way of *narrative*: You should write a story about an experience of yours that you feel illustrates your thesis. (If you feel other, smaller stories would contribute to your essay, you may incorporate them also.)

I would recommend that you *first* think of an experience where you learned something from somebody, and *then* consider what about that person's actions was special. (Actually, I would recommend thinking of several instances, and then choosing the one with most potential.) While you might draw from your experiences in school, you could equally draw from family, church, sports, camps, or other activities. You should draw on your own real experience, but you may want to create incidental details to enliven the story.

Your narrative should incorporate an enticing, perceptive story; a well-supported reflection about some characteristic of good teaching; and a description of the experience's effect on you. Ideally, these will not be three separate parts of your essay, but instead they would be skillfully interwoven into the frame of the story. Consider how Richard Rodriguez, while writing his autobiography, uses his story as a vehicle for contemplating a variety of themes.

Your narrative should be at least 750–1000 words long. It is possible to be longer than this and still be too short, though! A longer paper may be necessary to tell your story and make your point well. Remember, though, that a longer paper is not necessarily better.

Following the last paragraph of your narrative, include a short summary of your thesis. This summary is not part of your essay, although it might possibly be a copy of a sentence or two from it. The characteristic you identify would normally be deeper than a single word. (A *bad* example of

a thesis would be “A good teacher speaks clearly.” While it addresses a characteristic of good teaching, it doesn't display much insightfulness.)

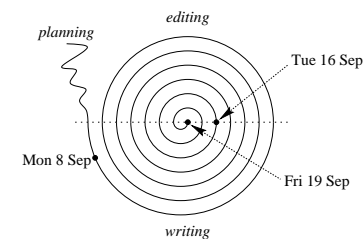
Due dates

Mon 8 Sep At your individual conference with me, be prepared to discuss your plans for the story you want to tell and your thesis statement. I recommend writing a very rough draft to convince yourself of the viability of your plan.

Tue 16 Sep Complete a finished draft and bring five copies to class. You will share your narrative with a group including a Writing Center tutor and other students. They will provide feedback on your essay. You will submit one of the copies to me before you leave.

This paper should be polished! The feedback will be most useful if the paper is in final form. Note that I will grade this finished draft as part of your overall grade for the essay.

Fri 19 Sep Submit the final revision of your paper to me. Note that this is an odd day, and so class is not scheduled then. You may submit your paper via e-mail attachment to me or on paper into my office. It is due at 5pm. (If I'm away from my office, slide it under my door.)



The writing process for this essay.