

ENG 215
Introduction to Creative Writing
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2024 (Block 8)

PERSONAL ESSAY

DUE: Thursday 25 April OR Friday 26 April
Email before your scheduled appointment
Submit as an attachment in Microsoft Word or pdf form
In the subject line write “ESSAY”

For the second major assignment of the block, each student will write a nonfiction essay of approximately 1,000 words. Write about any memory of a person, place, or thing.

You may choose to write about one person from your past—a friend, a family member, maybe someone you met only once. You may choose to write about a place that was significant in your life—a geographical location, like a city, or an environment, like a room. Or you may choose to write about an object you remember, like a toy or a doll or a piece of clothing. In any case, your essay should be clear and accessible to the general reader, and it should give that reader a better understanding of who you are.

Before writing your essay, you should take notes in your Roaring Spring notebook. Brainstorm ideas, jot down phrases. You may then free write for a while (like the in-class writing assignments). Finally, you should type a draft of your essay.

Each student will meet with the instructor for a thirty-minute conference on Zoom. The scheduled time you select becomes your deadline for the essay. Try to have a complete first draft by the deadline. During the meeting, the instructor will talk through your essay and make recommendations for revision—in case you choose to redraft this essay for your Final Submission. Be prepared to take notes with a pen or pencil during this meeting; the feedback will not be sent to you later.

If you neglect to show up for your scheduled meeting or neglect to write an essay, you will earn zero points on this assignment.

REQUIREMENTS

- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.
In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”
- Write in multiple paragraphs. Indent each new paragraph. Do no skip lines.
- Follow the conventions of edited American English unless there is a good reason not to. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Meet with the instructor for a thirty-minute conference on Zoom. A sign-in sheet is available (adamabraham.info). Email the essay to aabraham@cornellcollege.edu before your conference begins.
- In the upper-left corner of the FIRST PAGE, include the following information:

Your Name

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Date

Personal Essay

- One line below that, write a TITLE for your essay, centered, using mixed case (Capitals and lowercase). Do not italicize, underline, or use bold print.

GRADING

The personal essay is worth 10 points, which is 10 percent of your final grade. To earn 10 out of 10 points on the assignment, you should ...

- submit the essay by email before your scheduled meeting begins.
- follow all instructions on this assignment sheet.
- demonstrate through the writing that time and effort were committed.
- show up for your scheduled Zoom meeting.

If you want more guidance, feel free to ask a question or schedule a Zoom appointment.