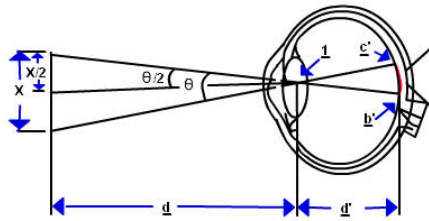


# Short Paper 1.3: Re-visioning the Photo Autobiography

engl 131 / sec. A4 / winter quarter 2005-06 / chang



Now that you have had some practice with close reading, identifying claims, thinking about persuasion and rhetorical situation, and generating your own arguments, this assignment asks you to revisit the first Response Paper: Photo Autobiography.

Using the same photo and based on comments (made by your peers and by me), revise and rework the autobiography more fully as an argument. Now it's time to develop a clear claim, a clear exigence

for your paper. In other words, your autobiography must be more than just a description of the photo, an explication of the image, and an explanation of its importance. Your autobiography is more than just a summary of events, a telling of a story, or a collection of facts and details. Consider how an autobiography can serve as a persuasion. In this case, **revise your Photo Autobiography to challenge a particular assumption or stereotype about you.** One possible claim then is that a viewer may assume something about you upon seeing your photo and that this assumption or stereotype is false. Why is this important to you, to your audience? Another possible claim is that the assumption is true. How can such a claim be useful or helpful to you?

Furthermore, your first Photo Autobiography was most likely written for an audience of me as your instructor or perhaps your class as a whole. **Imagine a different audience for your revised paper.** For example, how would you change your argument, your language, and your purpose if you were writing for a family reunion newsletter? Or for a college application? Or for a personals website? On a separate page (apart from the autobiography itself) write a single paragraph identifying your new audience, what your audience's expectations are, and how you will revise your paper to better persuade them.

Finally, **you may consider a change in the genre of your photo autobiography.** In other words, the assignment must still be autobiographical, must be based on a close reading of your photo, and must satisfy the needs of your claim and audience. However, you may decide that your target audience is your grandparents and your paper is in the form of a personal letter. Your audience may be a job interview or admissions board and your paper is in the form of a cover letter or statement of purpose. Finally, your audience may be for a college magazine profiling up and coming freshmen and your paper is in the form of an interview. If you do make a change in genre, you must still accomplish the basic tasks of this assignment: developing a clear claim, supporting your claim with evidence, understanding the rhetorical situation, analyzing your audience, and writing clearly and persuasively. If your change in genre does not suit your goals, your audience, or the meaning of the message, then you will have failed to accomplish the assignment.

Consider then the following prompts and concerns for this short paper:

- Who is your target audience? What are their expectations? What will they find important?
- What is your claim about yourself? How does the claim fit the audience's expectations?
- What additional or different evidence, details, and information will you need to support your claim?
- What kind of writing are you doing? In other words, what genre is your revision in? Did your claim or change in audience create a change in the kind of writing you are doing? Is the genre appropriate and effective?
- What can you carry over from the first draft of your photo autobiography? What revisions or changes need to be made?

**Targeted outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4

**Turn in:** 2-3 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, stapled  
1 paragraph describing the new audience/new genre on a separate sheet  
copy of photo

**Due:** Tuesday, January 17