

Writing Challenge 1.0: Personal Statement

engl 281 / sec. B / autumn quarter 2011-12 / chang

For this writing challenge, you will write a personal statement answering the question: Why is reading and writing important (to you)? Like a literacy narrative, your statement should explore the ways in which your experiences with reading and writing—both your positive experiences and difficulties—have shaped you, your goals, and your experiences in and outside of school. The readings we have done this week—especially Alexie and Tan—should be springboards for thinking about your own experiences with reading and writing. However, you must do more than just tell a story. You must do more than describe your feelings. A personal statement, like the one you had to write to get into university, argues *something*: get to know me, this is who I am, this is what I value, I am a good candidate because, I have something to contribute, and so on. Though your personal statement need not come out and say these things, it should reveal to the reader your personality, your drives, your style, your desires, and your abilities. The best personal statements give a lot of bang for the buck: short, specifically detailed, full of voice, appropriate in tone, answer the prompt, avoids cliché, and communicates an idea.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 3-4 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, proper heading

Due: Tuesday, October 4, at the start of class

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