

STYLE ESSAY  
ENGLISH 125.068

DUE DATES:

Rough draft: Wednesday, 3 December. Bring four copies to class.  
Final: Wednesday, 10 December. Bring 2 copies to class, along with your personal reflection, rough draft, peer reviewer comments, and peer review worksheets.

FORMAT:

8 pages, 12pt Times New Roman, double spaced, one inch margins, stapled.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Construct an essay in which you outline your philosophy and rules for writing. Your essay should answer the following questions according to your own sensibilities:

- 1) What is writing? What is it for? Why?
- 2) What rules do you follow when writing? Are rules necessary? Why?

Each of these questions should occupy at least three pages in your final piece. The remainder of the page count can be spent addressing either of them in more detail, or bringing in other points you feel are relevant to your understanding and practice of the craft of writing.

You can take *essay* here to be more freeform than it has been so far this semester. If you want to borrow conventions from other genres we've read this semester (the rule lists from Strunk & White, for example, or the vignettes of Annie Dillard) please do. This piece should be considered "formal" only in as much as you should observe the rules of syntax and grammar, though you should also take care to adhere to the conventions of any mode you invoke. That is, if you begin to argue a point, you will want to follow the conventions of persuasive writing. You will find yourself engaged with most of the forms we have practiced this semester; be sure to adapt your tactics accordingly.

Outside sources are discouraged. This piece of writing is about your own opinions. When you make a contentious point, you will want to provide your own reasoning rather than someone else's. Take note, however, that contentious points must still be accompanied by reasoning.

These essays will be graded based on how well you articulate your points. Be clear, lively, and forceful. The goal of this assignment is to give you a chance to reflect on and distill the experiences you've had so far with the craft of writing, not to regurgitate received ideas and rules.