

Assignment #1 – Reflective Essay (Remembered Event)

For this assignment show your reader how an event or specific time or character from your past has had a lasting impact on your life. Choose an event that you would feel comfortable discussing in class. Rather than just *telling* your reader about this event, *show* the reader what the event was like also. This will require descriptive detail; remember, as we will discuss in class, to go down to narrower and narrower levels of specific support. Keep in mind as you design a thesis statement that your reader should be able to *see* why the event was important to you and why that event is still important. You may choose to write a profile of a character but this profile should be **secondary** to your own autobiographical message in the essay. If you profile a person in your remembered event, tell how that person affected you and how that still lasts today. Your paper should have an identifiable argument somewhere near the beginning (usually at the end of the introductory paragraph). This thesis (or center, or central argument) should then guide the rest of the paper, showing how significant the remembered event was and is to you. Remember that your paper will need to sustain the reader's (and Mr. Coleman's) interest throughout. General arguments will lead you astray toward elements that are not compelling for either you or the reader. Consult the assigned readings for helpful direction and examples. **Pages 215-220** in your text are especially useful. We will talk about other portions of the text in class and we will look at some sample papers.

Draw from experiences in your past, and make them come alive in your essay. I am looking for essays that use vivid, descriptive language and make me feel like I am actually there. Careful consideration should be given to punctuation, grammar, and spelling!

Length: 2 typed double spaced pages.

Draft Due Date: Tuesday January 31st (in class peer-review / babble group session will be conducted.)

Revision Due Date: Tuesday February 7th (at the beginning of class.)