Personal narrative/Theme-based

Ableiter – CIS WRIT 1301

Goals of the paper:

1. To ease back into writing gently.
2. To learn more about yourself and discover or re-discover your **voice**.
3. To begin the writing process and to begin working with audience.
4. To help the instructor get to know you as a writer and as a person.

The task:

As with any “story”, certainly you will not be able to include everything. Just as a memoirist chooses pivotal points to illustrate her worldview and her place in it, so too must you choose the important pieces that not only illustrate the events that occurred and the important “players” in it, but you must also pull it together to reveal a theme and portray it through a logical organization.

Your challenge will be to select those pieces carefully and to find a central theme or pattern around which you can focus your paper. Please make sure you include some discussion and reflection as you now have a perspective AFTER the event. What do you understand in hindsight?

Requirements: minimum of 900, maximum of 1100 words typed, double-spaced. All drafts will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Must select a specific event/incident – the more focused, the better.**

1. Must include some “character” description(s).
2. Include dialogue.
3. Include figurative language/imagery.
4. Attempt a conclusion that actually concludes something; don’t just “end the story” at the final moment of the incident without working in some type of summary of your experience and the result(s) of your participation in the experience.

Note: This “conclusion” does not necessarily have to come at the very end of the paper.

**Possible** content – brainstorm the following:

* 1. Who was instrumental in the event?
	2. What stands out to you the most when you recall the event? Five senses experiences…
	3. What feelings can you recall experiencing during/after?
	4. What did it mean to you then/now?
	5. What conversation(s) can you remember?

**Don’t**:

1. Write about your dead/dying relative – uncomfortable for the reader and almost impossible for this short paper to drum up an appropriate connection.
2. Write about your mission trip – you run the real risk of sounding ethnocentric, racist, privileged, or all of the above.