

**Topics due: Tuesday, September 18**  
**2 copies of Typed Rough Draft Due: Thursday, September 20**  
**1 copy of Final Typed Draft Due: Thursday, September 27**

**Length Requirement:** 3 to 4 pages

**Format:** This assignment should be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Papers should have 1 inch margins. Make sure to **title** your essay and include a “Name Block” in the top left or right corner which includes your name, my name, the class, and the date.

**Purpose:** To demonstrate competence in writing at the collegiate level. In addition, this essay is designed to prompt you to reflect on your past experiences and describe an event in your life with compelling details and a clear sense of organization.

**Assignment:** In a **well-organized, focused** essay, tell a story about a moment in your life when you encountered a monster or felt like a monster. Do not try to tell your entire life story; instead, narrow your topic to one single incident (consisting of mainly **a single narrative**), and completely describe it with some underlying **purpose** (thesis), which may be a lesson you learned or taught someone else. Do not let this essay merely become an accounting of a personal story. There should be a REASON that you are telling this particular story.

**Your narrative should focus on one of the following prompts:**

1. Each of us has experienced moments of fear or terror in our lives. These moments are often instigated by another person or some entity that is beyond our control. We often consider these obstacles as “monsters” – from bullies on the playground, to the snarling dog down the street, to cancer or some other debilitating disease. An important part in the development of our identities is learning how to cope with these monsters. Briefly describe a monster that you encountered, and explore how you dealt with the fear that the monster evoked. How do you think the process of experiencing and dealing with your fear shaped who you are today?
2. Many of us have felt like a “freak” or an outsider at some point in our lives. Have you ever had the experience of not fitting in or being treated like a monster because you were different from everyone else in some way? Or, perhaps you felt out of control in a situation and acted like a “monster” to somebody else. Maybe you were the bully on the playground tormenting another child. Whether you were treated like a monster or acted like a monster, consider: how did the experience make you feel? How did you deal with it? How has the experience shaped your sense of self? Do you have any regrets?

An important aspect of a personal narrative is **honesty**; you don’t have to come across as all hero, all victim, or all villain in your story. People are complex. You just have to reveal what it means to be human. Remember to keep in mind your audience for this piece is an academic audience, and choose a topic you are comfortable writing about. An effective or engaging approach may be to start with the action of your story and put the thesis in your conclusion.

**Objectives:** This assignment is meant to support the following Learning Outcomes:

- Engage in writing as a process, including drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading
- Use grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions appropriate for a variety of audiences
- Critique your own and others' work in written and oral formats
- Produce coherent, organized, readable prose for a variety of rhetorical situations

**Assessment:** Your paper will be evaluated on the following four criteria:

1. ***Content/ Purpose*** – Your purpose answers WHY you are telling the story that you choose to tell. It should be clearly stated as a **direct thesis statement** or at least strongly implied throughout the essay as an **implicit thesis statement**. You should vividly and accurately describe all of the events surrounding your experience, focusing on concrete details and strong images.
2. ***Unity/Coherence*** – You should include narrative transitions, such as time transitions, etc. between paragraphs so that your reader can easily follow the narrative. Chronological order is usually an effective way to organize the events in a personal narrative.
3. ***Language/ Mechanics*** - You should always avoid major grammar errors in an essay, but in particular, pay attention to your verb tense and point of view. Try to use vivid language to evoke a strong image in your reader's head.
4. ***Format*** – Your essay should adhere to the formatting directions listed above.

\*\*See the essay grading rubric posted on ULearn for a detailed break-down of how the essay will be graded.