

## English 1301

### Essay #4: Profile

#### Important Dates

Thursday, April 17—discuss guidelines for Essay #4

Tuesday, April 22—profile topic and interview questions due (in class)

Thursday, April 24-Tuesday, April 29—student draft review (for assigned students only)

Thursday, May 1—Writer's Workshop (at least two typed pages) and revision activity

Tuesday, May 6—final draft due (Blackboard)

#### Essay Prompt

For our final essay in ENGL 1301, you will be writing a profile of a worker or professional. This person can be someone in a field that you would like to pursue, who you think has an interesting job or profession, or who has a job you would like to learn more about. There are a great number of possibilities here—you can even write a profile of a volunteer for an organization. The only conditions are that the person cannot be a relative, significant other, or close friend. Also, make sure that the profile focuses on the person's work and other related aspects of his/her life.

Unlike the previous two essays, where scholarly research was the basis of your writing, this assignment will require you to do field research. That means that you will need to interview and observe the person you are profiling as a way to better understand his/her job or profession. I ask that you interview and observe your subject in person at least one time; doing so several times is even better. Writers will submit to me at least ten questions that they intend to ask their subject, and I will approve these questions. When interviewing and observing, writers should take good notes and be ready to provide those to me.

#### Criteria

A successfully written paper will contain the following components:

- Length of the essay should be at least **three-to-four pages, typed, doubled-spaced, and with proper MLA formatting and heading**;
- A strong **thesis statement** that makes clear your main claim about your profile subject;
- Focus on a person in a **particular job or profession** you find interesting. The writing should also focus on the work or job;
- **Field research** will be the basis of this assignment, so writers should plan to interview and observe their subject and take very detailed notes. The writing should include direct quotations, paraphrases, and detailed observations;
- **No outside sources** are required, though students are welcome to use them if they find them appropriate. If so, students should quote and cite the sources appropriately;
- Inclusion of all aspects of profile writing discussed in **Chapter 4**;
- At least one example each of **formal, simple, and partial attribution**. Other than that, there is no requirement on the number of direct quotes and/or paraphrases you should use;
- Use of the **MLA Quick Reference Guide** and near-perfect use of direct quotes and Works Cited entries. The Works Cited page will most likely include one source: the profile subject interview;

- Clear evidence of **revision** in each stage of your writing. In other words, your rough draft and final draft should not be the same exact paper;
- Use of **strong grammar, punctuation, and spelling** to the best of your ability.
- If you have made any grade below a C on the previous two essays, you are **required** to either come see me or make an appointment with the Writing Center for this essay;
- **Brief topic description.** On Tuesday, April 22, I would like you to bring to class a typed document that explains 1) who your chosen profile subject is; 2) why you have chosen this person; 3) how you plan to make contact/approach this subject; 4) at least ten questions you will use for the interview; and 5) any problems with or questions about the assignment;
- Students who signed up for **draft review** on Thursday, April 24, and Tuesday, April 29, should e-mail their drafts at least 12 hours in advance. Please note the extended time due to the constraints of field research;
- Participation in the **Writer's Workshop**. On Thursday, May 1, we will have a peer review workshop during class. You must have at least two typed pages and a Works Cited page on this day. Not having a draft on this day or participating in the workshop will result in **one full grade deduction** on your final paper; and
- Your **final draft** is due on Blackboard by class time on Tuesday, May 6. Since this is the final project of the semester, no late work will be accepted. Please retain all rough drafts, prewriting, sources, notes, and peer review, in case I need to see them.