

ENGL 1010: English Composition I
Essay #1: Writing a Profile

Assignment Directions

As discussed in the profile lecture, you will be writing a 4-6 page profile essay about an intriguing person, place, or activity **in your community**. This should be a person, place, or activity that you have access to so that you can gather information through interviews and observations.

As you think about potential topics, don't just rush through your topic selection process; put some thought into it. If you choose a topic that is interesting to you and that you have ready access to, researching and writing the essay will be much easier.

Restricted Topics:

Do NOT write about a famous person (including celebrities, politicians, athletes, religious figures, and historic figures), a historical event, or a vacation. Avoid writing about a family member unless you can create a unique, interesting, and non-sentimental perspective in your profile of them.

About Profiles

The purpose of the profile essay is to present the subject vividly to your readers and convey the subject's cultural, social or personal significance. Your role is to supply a well-defined, well thought-out perspective that clearly conveys your interpretation of your subject.

The profile essay, therefore, has two parts:

- It informs your readers about your subject—you want readers to learn something about your subject they might not have known otherwise—your unique observations and/or analysis.
- At the same time you are also conveying a kind of personal interpretation, a personal perspective, your own attitude towards this subject.

Basic Features of the Profile

- **An intriguing, well-focused subject:** Even the mundane can look interesting if you look closely and have a unique perspective to offer. Whatever your subject, your goal is to bring out its uniqueness, show what's amazing or fascinating about it to you.
- **A vivid presentation:** be specific instead of generalizing. Instead of writing about "teenagers" in general, a profiler will show us a vivid portrait of one in particular, and leave it to readers to draw their own generalizations, if they wish.