

# Personal Essay: A life place

**Due dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> draft due before noon on Saturday, June 1  
2<sup>nd</sup> Draft due to hand in on Wed, June 5

All of us have lived, worked, played, and thought about places we have spent our time. This personal essay challenges you to **consider how a place has in some way shaped who you are and how you live.**

Your purpose here is to compose a personal essay to communicate to readers some point about an important place in your life. Your audience is your peers and your instructor.

## Genre Issues

*"There must be a purpose behind telling the story that speaks in some way to someone else."*

- Your experiences and reflections serve as evidence
- Analysis and reflection are critical methods to go beyond simply telling a story
- A personal essay is not just for the sake of the writer - it's intended to be a window on the world for readers
- Your final draft should be about three pages long, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font.

## Guides to Invention

- Develop a list of places of importance to you, then narrow your list down to a few, then one
- Compose a list of your memories or reflections on your chosen place
- Conduct a bit of research- what interesting info can you learn about this place and does that change the way you see it?
- Try to answer the following:
  - How have you changed as an individual since you encountered that place?
  - How has the PLACE influenced that change?
  - How did living or visiting there influence WHAT you do?

## Evaluation

You will receive comments rather than a grade on this draft.

I will read your final draft to determine your success:

- Engaging the genre of the personal essay, including
  - Providing readers a study of how a place influences who you are and what you do
  - Using personal experience and reflection as evidence
  - Using narrative and analysis as methods of development
- Practicing composing clear, edited sentences and logically organized paragraphs