

no four line &
direct quote

Essay # 2: Profile Essay
DUE DATE: Wednesday, March 5

4-6 pg. one line at
minimum 5th page

Everyone has a story to tell. Whether it involves a struggle, accomplishment, goal, passion, talent, background or experience, everyone has the material for an interesting story. For your second essay, you will be interviewing someone of interest to you. A profile does not tell a person's life story, but attempts to give the reader insight into an important aspect of the subject.

For this essay, you will become journalists. I want you to compose a profile of an individual whom you have interviewed and closely observed. The person may be well known in the community (politician, local musician, etc.) or relatively anonymous (relative, friend, server in a restaurant, college professor, etc.). **The purpose of this essay is to convey—through close observation and factual investigation (interview)—the distinct, unique qualities of an individual.** I want you to bring out what's interesting about your subject—no matter how ordinary this individual may appear at first.

Elements to include in your profile:

- **Theme:** Try to develop one aspect of the person's life that sums the person up. Obviously, one aspect does not sum up a person's life, but it can sum up the aspect you are presenting. This is the most important element of a profile story, but it often does not emerge right away. You may not know what your theme may be until you start to write, **so take good notes.**
- To be able to illustrate your theme you will need in your profile:
 - **Observation:** Use details you observe of your subject that support your theme
 - Body language (laid back, uptight and stiff, etc.)
 - Language (Casual and informal or formal and academic sounding)
 - **Dialogue:** Get direct, first-hand quotes from your subject!!
 - **Anecdotes:** Short, detailed stories or experiences can be very effective in illustrating your theme. Be sure to *go beyond the obvious* and dig for details that you will need to make the anecdote interesting and effective.

****Look at profiles in magazines (*Spin, Rolling Stone, Marie Claire, Elle, Sports Illustrated, Vanity Fair, The New Yorker*, etc.) and newspapers (*Los Angeles Times, New York Times, OC Register, USA Today*, etc.) to see how professional journalists engage readers. Also, see how they develop their own unique voice in their profile and a theme of their subject.**