

Poetry Personal History: Written and Spoken Words¹

Assignment Overview

Over the first four weeks of the semester, you will spend time “rummaging” through our Online ENGL 1005B Poetry Collection, considering connections between the poems you encounter and your own personal experiences, identities, and writerly practices. You will draw from these poems and our in-class writing and drafting exercises to write a 750-1000 word essay narrating a significant event from your life. This may be a historical, social, cultural, and/or political event you have lived through or a personal life experience that played a significant role in shaping the person you are today. Your essay must include at least 5 lines from 5 different poems, and these sources must be cited in text and in a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. Papers must also be accompanied by a “spoken word” audio recording of one paragraph or passage from your essay (no more than 250 words). There are **5 C/NC assignments** associated with this project (Peer-Review Draft, Author’s Note, Peer-Reponses, Project Preface, Final Project).

Objectives

This assignment will ask students to engage course learning outcomes related to writing process (SLO 3), source integration (SLO 4), and style (SLO 5) and demonstrate understanding of rhetorical topics connected to narrative writing including close reading, synthesizing ideas and language, and style and expression.

Instructions and Timeline

This project will be completed as a guided process involving several drafting activities and peer working group sessions. Please see below for the schedule of assignments due. Peer-review drafts, reflection letters, and the final project must be submitted by **11:59 PM** on the date due in order to be marked as Complete.

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| T 2/8 | Review assignment guidelines for Poetry Personal History; read Sapiago’s “Poetry is Activism” and being rummaging through our online Poetry Collection. |
| R 2/10 | Complete drafting activities (writing exercise and writing studio). |
| Week 4 | Attend your scheduled instructor/student conference with a draft of your essay and answers to conference prep questions. |
| R 2/17 | Complete drafting activities (writing exercise and writing studio). |
| T 2/22 | Post Draft 1 (C/NC) of your Poetry Personal History and Author’s Note (C/NC) to the peer-review discussion board; in-class peer-review writing studio. |

¹ This assignment was developed for use in the First-Year Writing Program at California State University, Los Angeles and is aligned with the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) Framework. See First-Year Writing Program, Department of English, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/composition-program> and Transparency in Learning and Teaching, Center for Effective Teaching and Learning, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/cetl/transparency-learning-and-teaching-tilt>.

- R 2/24 Read your assigned peers' drafts and post your **Peer Responses** (C/NC) to the peer-review discussion board.
- T 3/1 Complete drafting activities (writing exercise).
- R 3/3 Submit final **Poetry Personal History** (C/NC) and **Project Preface** (C/NC) to the Canvas assignments folders; share spoken word recordings in class.

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting your final Poetry Personal History, please review the following checklist to make sure your submission meets the minimum requirements. Projects missing any of these criteria will be marked as Incomplete:

- The final word count for your essay must be between 750-1000 words in length.
- Your final submission must include at least 5 lines from 5 different poems.
- The poems you reference in your essay should be incorporated, cited, and listed in a Works Cited page according to [MLA or APA guidelines](#).
- Along with your essay, you must upload an audio recording to the Canvas assignments folder. In this recording, you will deliver a paragraph or passage from your essay (no more than 250 words) as a "spoken word" piece. See this [link](#) for powerful examples of spoken word performances.
- Both your essay and the spoken word piece you deliver must be original compositions.
- Your project must demonstrate clear and meaningful engagement with the assignment, that is, it should respond to the prompt and show that you have put effort into your work.

Final Project Submission Instructions

Submit your final Poetry Personal History and Project Preface to the Canvas assignments folders by **11:59 PM on Thursday, March 3, 2022**.

- Go to our Canvas course home page.
- Click on the Assignments link in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.
- Open the "Poetry Personal History" assignment.
- Click Add Submission and upload your Poetry Personal History in a Word document, and then add your audio file in MP3 format.
- Click Save Changes to submit.
- Open the "PPH Project Preface" assignment and repeat the above steps to upload your Project Preface as a Word document.

Evaluation

Throughout the process of drafting your Poetry Personal History, you will receive detailed feedback with questions, comments, and recommendations for future drafts. Assignments that are submitted on time and that meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Complete**. Missing assignments and submissions that do not meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Incomplete**. As per the course grading contract, ten or more Incomplete assignments will result in an NC for the course.