

## **ESSAY #2: Getting Started on the Personal Essay with An Informative Purpose**

The purpose of the informative personal essay is to share with your readers something about which you are an expert, something that you think your readers may not know or about which they may be misinformed.

### Prewriting Suggestions

Choose one of the following topics to respond to in three timed freewritings. Time yourself at least 10 minutes for each freewriting.

1. Do you have a hobby that many people aren't familiar with or that people misunderstand? Write about that hobby in three freewriting responses.
2. Have you learned something on the job that is particularly interesting or that people might not know? Freewrite on that topic.
3. Based on your experiences as a parent or a child and as an observer of children and their parents, what are the results of parenting styles that impose too many limits, that impose too few restrictions, or that impose a reasonable number of boundaries? Free write on any part of this question. See where your thoughts take you.
4. Like Garrison Keillor, whose essay "How to Write a Letter" we will read in class, do you know how to do something that would be interesting and informative for your readers? If so, freewrite on directions for preparing and for performing that task.
5. Have you lived long enough in an area to notice changes to that area—changes for better or for worse? Write about those changes.

Read your three timed writings. Have you come up with an idea that you think you can develop into an informative essay? Then think of how you can focus that idea and begin writing a first draft.

If you don't like what you have written, do some free writing on one of other topics.

Your **final draft** should be 850- 1000 words.