

Blue Bowl Essay

For your final writing assignment of the year, you will compose a personal essay, patterned after Alice Walker's "My Mother's Blue Bowl". Walker's piece exemplifies the flexibility afforded by the personal essay. "Using literary devices. . . along with stylistic fragments, autobiographical details, and a conversational tone," Walker gives her reader an intimate glimpse into the significance of this ordinary piece of blue pottery (Garrison et. al. 638).

Essay & Presentation Directions: Write a personal essay (700-1,000 words) focused on a significant item in your life. The item could be something that holds sentimental value, like a shell you collected during a fabulous vacation, or a more common item like a sneaker you have worn during basketball practice. You might even pick an intangible item such as a smell or taste that evokes particularly nostalgic memories. Your essay should be written from the first-person point of view and include literary and stylistic elements along with personal details which will make your essay both interesting and relatable.

Have fun with this essay! Feel free to use creative font or insert pictures throughout the essay. For your presentation you will simply read your essay aloud in front of the class. If it's feasible, bring your object to class for the presentation. (No live animals, please!)

You will be graded on the following:

- Requirements: 700-1000 words, submitted according to pacing guide instructions
- Mechanics: Essay must show evidence of thorough proofreading!
- Style: Use strong, descriptive wording. Incorporate literary elements in your writing!
- Presentation: Presentation will count as a portion of your grade.