

Week 1 – RAW Prompts

For each of the questions posed compose your response in the box below the question. Make sure to take note of the assigned word count for each. For criteria of evaluation, make sure to review the “Submission Policy” for this assignment on pp. 4-5 & 7 of our course syllabus.

Make sure to **SAVE** this document to your computer *before* you upload your completed RAW Prompts to Canvas. If you simply download this work sheet, fill it out without **SAVING**, and upload, the sheet will be blank. If this happens, it may impact your grade. So, **make sure to save your work often!**

The Prompt:

In this class, in conjunction with me, you will define what you wish to learn and develop in terms of your writing, reading, editing, etc. during this class. I will be a mere participant in this conversation: I want you to lead the identification of what you want and need to learn about writing and yourself as a writer. For this first task, in the form of a free write, **write about your past experience with writing** thinking about assignments you did and did not like, common feedback you have received from instructors, as well as the kind of feedback/assignments/activities/lessons you have found helpful and some you have not.

Then, pivot to thinking about your future classes/career: how do you imagine using writing in your future as a professional? What career path would you like to take, and how will writing help you to get there? What are some qualities of writing that you would like to develop during the semester (voice, punctuation, tone, style, ethos, etc.)? Essentially, what is your rhetorical situation in the class? Meaning, what is your purpose for being here, and what do you want to get out of this class?

Note: I stated that this should be in the form of a “free write,” and I mean that. I want you to just write while thinking about the questions I have asked of you as you begin to identify your own learning intentions for the course. **Use your in-class writing as a place to start:** you can copy and paste it here, re-read and keep going, OR re-read what you wrote by hand as inspiration and get started writing in the box (no need to transcribe what you wrote).

Set a timer for 15 minutes and just keep writing about what you want to learn and practice in this class. Do not stop writing until the timer goes off!

Write here:

I really got into writing when I had just graduated high school. I would listen to music and scenes would pop into my head. I would listen and re-listen to these songs so I could keep seeing the scenes and eventually I had to write them down. I then realized they all could play together so I arranged them in an order that seemed natural. That is still (in many ways) the process by which I write short-stories or scripts.

I then decided to attend ODU and get an English degree instead of a film degree because all my

favorite screen-writers and directors studied English. I have really enjoyed studying so so much at ODU. I have gotten along well with every one of my professors and have received helpful feedback throughout my time here. I like to think I have good ideas and I would say I have a good understanding of story-structure, character, and voice because I have heard this from my professors. However, I would say that my sentences are nowhere near where I would like them to be. They often read as formulaic or ultra-simplistic where I have room for more description. I have found that the most helpful assignments for me are the assignments where I have to write. Also reading has helped me immensely.

In the future I would love to write/edit for a publication of some kind. A lifelong dream of mine is to be a writer or documentarian for National Geographic. I would also love to write and direct films. The main thing I want to get out of this class is to become a better writer by making the micro-aspects of my writing better. Wow, this really doesn't look like fifteen minutes of free-writing but I swear it was.