

The first couple of weeks in our course have been related to learning about narrative writing. Narrative, as you have learned, is a sort of storytelling. For this essay, I am asking you to write a narrative that answers a very specific question: **"Why College?"** Practice in narrative writing can help you later in your career as you write compelling cover letters and interview for jobs. If you intend to transfer to a four-year college, you may even need to write a similar narrative as part of your college application!

In this narrative, I want you to think about your *WHY*. Delve into the complexities of your personal journey towards higher education. Explore the motivations, aspirations, and challenges that have shaped your decision to pursue a college degree. Consider how your past experiences, personal values, and future goals intersect with the college experience. Through vivid storytelling and introspection, examine the question "Why college?" and reveal the compelling reasons that drive you to seek a higher education.

These questions can help you brainstorm and develop your personal narrative:

Reflecting on Your Past

- What significant experiences or challenges have shaped your desire for higher education?
- How has your upbringing or community influenced your college aspirations?
- Are there specific people who have inspired or encouraged you to pursue college?

Exploring Your Goals and Values

- What do you hope to achieve through a college education?
- How do your personal values align with the goals of higher education?
- What kind of impact do you want to make on the world, and how will college help you achieve that?

Considering the College Experience

- What excites you most about college life?
- What are you nervous or apprehensive about?
- How do you envision your college experience shaping your future?

Looking Deeper

- Why is a college degree important to you personally, beyond career goals?
- How does attending college fit into your overall life plan?
- What do you hope to learn about yourself through the college experience?

Remember, the most compelling essays come from honest and personal reflection. Be true to yourself as you explore these questions and craft your narrative.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Length:** 700-800 words (2–3 typed, double-spaced pages)--you should strive to write a draft that meets the minimum length. There needs to be a substantial amount of writing so that I have something on which to provide feedback.
- **Grading:** When reading your assignment, I will evaluate based on the following diagnostic criteria: context-making sure you did the assignment correctly; substance/details; organization; grammar/mechanics; formatting (MLA)
- **File Format:** all written assignments should be in **.doc**, **.docx**, or **.pdf** format and submitted to Canvas. **I will not accept drafts that are only a link to your Microsoft 365 or Google Docs/Drive accounts.**
- **Academic Integrity:** written assignments are passed through Turnitin, which is a plagiarism and AI detection service. While I would hope students writing a personal narrative wouldn't need to resort to cheating, experience has taught me the opposite. If the service alerts me of the potential for plagiarized or AI-generated work, it is an opportunity for a conversation regarding academic integrity.
- **Peer Review:** We will be doing small-group peer reviews. Be sure to have a printed copy of your draft or a means by which your peer group can have access to your draft on peer review day.