

## Class Notes

### Reading Lab #13 - How to write 100-word personal narratives

#### Step 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Start small by focusing on just one:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

and then explore why it's \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

OR, you can start \_\_\_\_\_ and scale back until you've carved out just one \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Questions to get you thinking:

1. How mentally tough are you?
2. Are you a patient person?
3. Are there activities you used to love that are now so competitive they're not fun anymore?
4. What are your hometown's shortcomings?
5. Do you turn to your parents for advice?
6. What's the best party you've ever been to?
7. What is the code you live by?
8. What has television taught you about social class?

#### Prompts to identify meaningful moments:

- A moment from childhood I think about often
- A moment from the last week or month that comes to mind
- A relationship that has had a significant impact on my life
- An experience that showed me something important about family
- An experience that showed me something important about friendship

- An experience that showed me something important about myself
- Something that happened to me that still makes me laugh
- A story I tell often
- A moment with a parent, guardian, teacher, coach or mentor that stands out
- A romantic moment
- A conversation I'll always remember

## Step 2 \_\_\_\_\_

If you get stuck, ask yourself these questions:

- What is most interesting or unforgettable about this moment I've chosen? Why does it stick with me?
- What images come to mind when I think about it? Is it a person, a scene, a place? Do I hear a conversation or a bit of music? Do I smell, taste or feel something?
- What does this memory mean to me? Why does it matter?

## Step 3 \_\_\_\_\_

- Go back through your freewriting and highlight the

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_ that stand out for you and that might become a part of your final piece.

- Why do you think they resonate?

## Step 4 - Writer's Moves

Writer's Moves help you to hone your topic to its \_\_\_\_\_,

most likely a single \_\_\_\_\_, and tell it the best way you can.

Writer's Moves:

1. Focus on a single important moment and show how it rippled out.

2. Remember: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Stay true to your \_\_\_\_\_.

## Step 5 \_\_\_\_\_

- Show, \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ by dropping your reader right into the action.
- Use \_\_\_\_\_.

## Step 6 \_\_\_\_\_

- Make your \_\_\_\_\_ soar.
- Reflect on the \_\_\_\_\_ of your story.

## Step 7 \_\_\_\_\_

- **Play with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to make every word matter.**
- **Don't forget your title!**