

**Personal Essay Assignment (9<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Rough Draft due March 5 for peer editing**

**Final Draft Due Friday, March 12**

**3-5 pages double-spaced (approximately 700-1200 words)**

**Rough Draft: 20 pts**

**Peer editing: 20 pts**

**Final Draft: 60 pts**

**Total: 100 pts**

**Task:** For this assignment, you will produce your own personal essay, modeling one of the spersonal essayists that we have read together in class.

**General Definition of the Personal Essay:** A short composition in prose that undertakes to discuss a matter, express a point of view, persuade us to accept a thesis on any subject, or simply entertain. It is aimed towards a **general/universal** instead of specialized audience and so **stays away from super technical language**. It also often uses **anecdotes** and **humor**, and the author assumes **a tone of intimacy with the audience that is relaxed, self-revelatory, and honest**. Personal essays are generally about **everydayness** instead of specialized topics.

**1) Chronicling a New Experience:** Chuck Klosterman, Nick Hornby

**2) Analyzing Emotion:** Kalle Lasn, Zadie Smith

**3) Defending a Cause or Position:** Kalle Lasn, James Baldwin, Barbara Kingsolver

**4) Identity:** James Baldwin, “The Wife of Bath”

**5) Crafting the Anecdote:** David Sedaris, Barbara Kingsolver