

Personal Essay Assignment (9th 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 personal 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