

## WRITER'S LETTER

Expository Writing is different from other courses in that it asks you to keep a constant finger on the pulse of your own work: with each essay, I will assess your written work developmentally, considering your progress from the previous assignment and what you would like to aim for in the next one. We should begin the term, then, with your own reflections on what has worked for you so far for you as a writer, which aspects of your own writing are satisfying to you versus those which are less so, what you hope to accomplish in this course, and so on.

Please take about a half-hour to address questions such as these (note that some questions may apply to your situation more than others). The questions are not intended to be answered in any particular order.

- Describe how you see yourself as a writer. What do you do well ? What aspects of writing seem to come naturally to you (generating ideas, outlining, writing a first draft, developing an argument, revising, choosing effective words, writing interesting sentences, etc.) ?
- What do you want to do better as a writer ? In what areas do you want to see progress this term ?
- What kinds of non-academic writing do you engage in (letters, email, business correspondence, workplace writing, fiction, poetry, diary writing, etc.) ?
- How do you balance your writing commitments with other commitments in your life (family, work, leisure) ? How important to you is becoming a better writer ?
- What's the last piece of academic writing that you've done ? What did you like most/least about it ?
- Thus far, what writing project has mattered most to you ?
- If you took high school, home school or college courses in the last few years, what were the most important things you learned about writing ?
- What's the best piece of advice about writing that you've been given ? Who passed on this advice (friend, family member, teacher, other) ?

At the midpoint of the course, we will return to what you write here to help us make sure that you're on track with the goals and challenges that you set for yourself. At the end of the term, you'll include this letter (or a copy of it) with your writing portfolio.