**Profile**

Due by 11:59 on November 3

Worth 10% of total class grade

Approx. 1250 words

Profiles help us get to know the world around us. We watch profiles on athletes on television to get to know the story behind game. We read profiles of restaurants on the Internet to help us determine whether or not we want to eat there. We read profiles of people from other places and cultures to help us learn about other cultures and empathize with their experiences. In this assignment you will interview one of your classmates, find out their likes and dislikes, and profile some aspect of their personality or life in order to better get to know, understand, and empathize with your peers. In the previous Putrid Song assignment, you wrote your own story. In the profile unit, you’ll combine those storytelling skills with research and firsthand experience to write a profile of your chosen subject.

In the past I have asked students to find someone on campus to interview someone from an organization they were not a part of or go to an event that they would not ordinarily go to. The problem was that people had difficulty going outside of their bubble. This semester I’ve decided to try something new and have you interview and profile an assigned classmate. Because working with another person can become complicated with busy schedules, I will be giving you ample class time to interview your partner.

A good profile shouldn’t like a dating profile, i.e. a list of interests and disinterests. Instead, the profile should focus on something significant about the person. Maybe they’ve had unique life experiences or have a niche interest. Your profile should choose **one** aspect of their life to focus on. In order to discover a focus for your profile, I suggest asking a copious amount of different questions. Then, once you settle on a specific topic, you can ask them more specific questions to fill out the profile.

Make sure your essay includes the following:

* An angle that allows you to approach the profile subject with a specific focus
* A current, firsthand account (you’ve actually engaged with your subject this semester, specifically for this assignment)
* Research to help you establish context or provide necessary background. This should include at least one interview (with the person being profiled and/or other people who can provide additional details and perspectives on the subject)
* Thoughtful organization that helps your readers navigate this essay
* Tone and style appropriate for your subject and purpose
* In-text citations and a works cited page

**Audience and Purpose**

Your classmates and I will be the initial audience for this essay. Just as the memoir was a chance to expand the world of your audience by telling your story, the profile essay is a chance to do something similar with the story of someone or something else.

**Note**

It is important to be a courteous partner during this project. This means showing up to class, being engaged, and answering your partner’s questions. Although I am giving you time for interviewing during class, it may be necessary to meet or communicate outside of class. I suggest exchanging phone numbers or email addresses in order to communicate more efficiently or ask any follow up questions that come up. If you experience any difficulties with your partner please let me know over email and I will provide you with an alternative.

**Pitch**

One of your blogposts for this unit will be a “pitch” which serves as an outline for your paper. This pitch should include 1) who your partner is (I will have a list, but this will be helpful for me), 2) Key things you learned about them in your preliminary interview, 3) the main focus of your profile about them, 4) five questions you can ask them to gain more information about that topic.