

GE0114 Introduction to the Humanities
Exercise 2: A Formative Memory (Diagnostic essay)

Due: Week 2
5 points

This exercise is designed to help me to assess my students' writing and thinking skills, as well as to help them engage in a basic reflective activity related to the topics discussed in class week 1.

In three paragraphs, describe a memory from your childhood (before the age of 15 if possible) that seems, in retrospect, to have been significant to your choice of career. Another way of describing this task is to consider a single remembered moment that now seems to have been important in helping you choose a path for your adult life. The earlier the memory the better, because the more distant the event, the more "mythical" it tends to become.

Begin by recounting the memory; follow this by describing how the remembered moment influenced later choices. Finally, consider how valuable the experience was—or whether, perhaps, other events have changed the trajectory of your life since. In other words, assess the impact of the event or its memory on the direction your life is taking now.

Please use standard English grammar, syntax, and spelling. Good, straightforward prose (rather than an attempt to be particularly poetic or "literary") will be appreciated. Double-space your essay, tabbing in rather than skipping spaces between paragraphs. Use a 10- or 12-point readable font, and use this heading in the upper left-hand corner:

Your name
Your program
The date

The essay should be between one and two pages long. Your ability to follow the instructions will count toward your point total.

This assignment is due at the beginning of class next week.