

## **Your Education: A Narrative Writing Assignment**

In this narrative assignment, your goal is to demonstrate how your own experiences and stories help you understand the world in a deep and meaningful way. Sometimes our experiences show us a harsh view of the world and sometimes a single event in time reveals that the world may be a brighter place that we previously realized. And sometimes a single story forces us to think and feel confused about why people and life are the way that they are.

Before you begin drafting your narrative, read and review Sherman Alexie's "Indian Education" short story. Notice how he focuses each segment of this story on a small but somehow significant experience.

Notice how he starts each grade with an interesting lead. Sometimes it's a statement, sometimes narration, sometimes an image, sometimes dialogue.

Notice also that he has a message in each of his stories. Consider: How do all of his stories come together to give you a sense of how he feels about his education?

### **The Assignment**

Using Sherman Alexie's "Indian Education" as a model, write about your experiences from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. Share your experiences as stories that have recently happened rather than looking back on them 12 years later. You can borrow from Alexie's structure – try to model your writing after his. This is a chance to try some different techniques if you like [i.e. Surrealism, metaphor, imagery, flashbacks, story-within-a-story, time shift, etc.] The best stories will contain detailed descriptions, characterization, and the presence of a deeper message / lesson.

### **Assessment**

Your grade will be determined based on how many stories you write and their overall quality. Each story should range from 70-250 words, and they should vary in length as Sherman Alexie's stories do in the text.

### **Your Goal**

Each story should capture a moment in time and suggest at a deeper meaning – something you learned about the world, about strangers, about your friends, family, or yourself from that particular moment. Each story should be well written and edited, with a strong focus on "showing" rather than "telling." Finally, pay close attention to sentence structure and clarity. Don't forget to carefully proofread for grammar and spelling.

### **Due Date**

Share with me on my website by **Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**

### **In Class Writing Work Days [with computers]**

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Assignment Value: 50 points*

# Your Education: A Narrative Writing Assignment

## Your Education: Rubric

	10	8	6	4	0
	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Meets Most Expectations	Meets Some Expectations	Not Evident
Vivid Imagery					
Subtle Communication of Message / Lesson					
Use of a Variety of Techniques					
Appropriate Length and Number of Stories					
Overall Clarity and Grammatical Correctness					

*Assignment Value: 50 points*

# Your Education: A Narrative Writing Assignment

## Your Education: Pre-Writing

Before you begin drafting, please brainstorm some memorable moments.

What happened?

I think I learned....

K	
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2	
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