**Project One: Personal Narrative on “Home”**

ENGL1105 | Fall 2024 | Dr. Greene

A person with her hand on her chin

Description automatically generated

Fig. 1. “Create a photographic image of a person thinking about their ideal meaning of home” prompt. *Adobe Firefly*, 8 July 2024 version, Adobe, 2023, <https://firefly.adobe.com/public/t2i?id=urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AUS%3A55f15f27-49f7-48a6-968e-c994adceaff9&ff_channel=shared_link&ff_source=Text2Imag>.

**Important Dates:**

**Wed., Sept. 18 by start of class:** 500-word Peer Review Draft due on Canvas.

**Wed., Sept. 18 by 11:59 pm:** 500-word rough draft for Dr. Greene’s comments due on Canvas.

**Fri., Oct. 4 by 11:59 pm:** 1000-1500-word final draft due on Canvas.

**Requirements:**

1. 1000-1500 words
2. MLA format
3. Engaging Title
4. Definition of the concept “HOME”
5. Specific examples and controlling idea
6. Narrative genre conventions
7. AI-acknowledgement statement (Available on Canvas)

**Invention Writing Checklist:**

(Note: Dates may change as we progress through the project.)

1. Week One Invention Writing due by Fri., Aug. 30 at 11:59 pm.
2. Week Two Invention Writing due by Fri., Sept. 6 at 11:59 pm.
3. Week Three Invention Writing due by Fri., Sept. 13 at 11:59 pm.
4. Week Four Invention Writing due by Fri., Sept. 20 at 11:59 pm.
5. Week Five Invention Writing due by Fri., Sept. 27 at 11:59 pm.

**Learning Objectives:**

* Using rhetorical appeals and evidence (rhetorical knowledge; reflective practice)
* Developing a stronger writing process (writing process)
* Understanding of narrative and definition essays (genre conventions)
* Altering writing to visuals (multimodal transformation)
* Assessing the processes and ideas of the project (reflective practice)

**Guidelines:**

Your goal in this first project is to develop a personal definition of the concept of “home” using the genre of a narrative. This assignment requires deep reflection on your personal meaning of the concept and the people, places, events, things, etc. that have helped you shape its meaning. To help develop your definition and narrative, consider the following questions:

* How has your understanding of “home” changed over time?
* What emotions does “home” evoke, and why do they help you understand the concept?
* How can “home” hold positive and negative connotations? Why is this important to having a more nuanced idea of the concept?
* How does your culture, religion, gender, sexuality, identity, etc. affect your definition of “home?”

These questions, the questions from our invention writing, and the questions you ask about the topic yourself will assist in developing the thesis for the essay.

Successful narratives present a clear and well-developed definition to the intended audience. The definitional narrative should deal with an ever-fluid definition of “HOME” that reveals the ways specific moments/lessons/things/people/etc. in life affect our understanding of the concept. Specificity—time and place, specific characters and objects, and descriptive language—and strong organization move the audience through the story toward the larger meanings. The reader should be able to follow your thought-process easily and be able to interpret the significance of ideas, examples, and other content to the overall thesis of the essay.

We will use generative AI—Microsoft Copilot—to assist in the invention, revision, and editing stages of the writing process. You can choose to engage with the technology as much or as little as you’d like, and you will not receive lower grades if you choose not to use generative AI in any parts of the essay. Regardless, I want to make clear that the goals of the project are to develop YOUR writing and thinking skills, not AI’s. The section below provides clear guidelines for the assessment of this project, including criteria for the use/misuse of generative AI.

**Assessment Criteria (10 points):[[1]](#footnote-1)**

* **Weekly Draft Materials (40%)**: Part of the learning process is your ability to develop and refine your ideas over time. If the drafts are solely AI-generated without further development, it shows a lack of engagement in the writing process.
* **Definition of Home (20%)**: The personal narrative essay requires a unique and personal definition of “home.” Reliance on AI-generated content without personal insight fails to meet the criterion of providing a personal and reflective definition.
* **Specific Examples (10%)**: The use of specific, personal examples is crucial to illustrate your definition of home. AI cannot provide personal anecdotes, so a lack of student-generated content here would result in a lack of authenticity.
* **Organization and Development (10%)**: The organization and development of the essay should reflect your ability to structure your thoughts and arguments. If there is no development beyond what AI provides, it indicates a lack of critical thinking and personal input.
* **Language Maturity (5%)**: While AI can produce grammatically correct text, you are expected to understand and apply these rules yourself. Over-reliance on AI suggests you have not mastered these skills.
* **Originality and Personal Contribution (20%)**: This criterion ensures that you are actively engaging with the material and contributing your own voice and perspective, which is essential for a personal narrative essay.

The emphasis on “Weekly Draft Materials, “Definition of Home,” “Originality and Personal Contributions,” and “Specific Examples” in the rubric underscores the importance of the writing process and personal engagement with the topic. Essays that rely heavily on AI-generated text without further development by you would not demonstrate the required level of personal reflection or skill development, which are key objectives of the assignment. Therefore, such essays would receive a failing score. The rubric encourages you to use AI as a tool for assistance, not as a replacement for your own work.

| **Criteria** | **Points** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **AI-level** | **Below AI-level** | **No Content** |
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| **Weekly Draft Materials** | 4 | All drafts are complete, detailed, and show thoughtful revision. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Most drafts are complete and show some revision. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Drafts are complete but lack detail and revision. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | Few drafts are complete and lack detail and revision. Worse than a generative AI. | No drafts submitted. |
| **Definition of “Home”** | 2 | Clear, insightful, and nuanced definition of “home”. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Adequate definition of “home” but lacks depth. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Basic definition of “home” lacks personal insight. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | Poor definition of “home;” definition lacks clarity and insight. Worse than a generative AI. | No definition provided. |
| **Specific Examples** | 1 | Rich, specific examples that illuminate the definition of “home”. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Some specific examples that support the definition of “home”. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Generic examples with little connection to the definition of “home”. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | Few or no examples, or examples that don’t support the definition of “home”. Worse than a generative AI. | No examples provided. |
| **Organization and Development** | .5 | Essay is well-organized, ideas are fully developed, and transitions are smooth. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Essay is mostly organized; most ideas are developed Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Essay is somewhat organized; some ideas are underdeveloped. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | Essay is disorganized, ideas are not fully developed. Worse than a generative AI. | No organization or development. |
| **Language Sophistication** | .5 | Language is sophisticated, precise, and effective. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Language is generally clear and appropriate but may lack precision. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Language is simplistic and may contain some errors. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | Language is often unclear or inappropriate and contains errors. Worse than a generative AI. | No attempt at language sophistication. |
| **Originality and Personal Contributions** | 2 | Highly original perspective, significant personal contribution to the definition of “home”. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on significantly, making the drafts highly reflective of student thinking. | Some originality, some personal contribution to the definition of “home”. Generative AI is used during invention stages and expanded on appropriately, but student could make drafts more their own. | Little originality, minimal personal contribution to the definition of “home”. Reflects the level of a generative AI. | No originality, no personal contribution to the definition of “home”. Worse than a generative AI. | No originality or personal contribution. |

1. Microsoft Copilot assisted in generating this section. I prompted Copilot to help design an appropriate rubric to assess for quality in definition, exemplification, organization, and grammar, as well as provide weight to the writing process and originality in ideation. A total of five drafts were created in this process. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)