

OPENING ACTIVITY

About Me

Who Are You As A Writer?

Who are you as a writer? Do you blog? Do you carry around a notebook? Do you procrastinate writing assignments? Do you write down all your thoughts and revise once you've said all you need to, or do you revise as you write? Take five minutes to write about who you are as a writer.

My Metaphor

Thinking about your responses, come up with a metaphor that captures who you are as a writer. Are you a rough draft, always working on new ideas, changing, revising? Are you a rain storm, furiously pelting the page with ideas? Are you the frame of a new house, great at coming up with the framework for your writing but missing the specific details and decorations? A pointillist painting- looks great at first glance but upon closer inspection, your writing is a bit hard to follow? Take 10 minutes to brainstorm ideas for your metaphor.



A pointillist painting by artist Angelo Franco

Your Assignment:

You have 200 words. Combine the ideas of these writing prompts into one piece. You can write in any format that makes sense for you. Paragraph or poem – it is up to you. Incorporate your metaphor into the piece. Explain how your metaphor fits you.

Find a high resolution (500 x 500 or larger) image of your metaphor. This will not be an image of you. Instead, find an image with a [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) attribution license that allows for others to legally use the image as long as credit is given to the owner. A great place to find such images is through Flickr. Go to www.flickr.com/creativecommons to search for your image. Once you find an image, keep track of its url and the name of the photographer.

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Creating Your About.Me Page

We'll be creating an [About.Me](#) page to share not only this first piece of writing from our class, but also as a place to link our future online projects and presentations. Creating an About.Me page is easy. All you need is an email address. But you must keep the following in mind:

Do NOT Use Your Full Name

When you initially sign up for your About.Me page, you will be asked for your email address, a password, and the url you would like to use. **DO NOT USE YOUR FULL NAME!** Instead, try plugging in just your first name following "about.me/". If your first name is not available, try using your first name and last initial. To protect your privacy, **NEVER** use your full name anywhere on this site. This includes when you are asked to add your first and last name in the step that follows the initial set up. Instead, you can plug in your first name and last initial.

Do NOT Link Unrelated Websites

One of the reasons we are creating this About.Me profile is because you will have the ability to link other websites to your profile. This will come in handy later on in class as we create and present more online materials. You are creating a school profile. **Do NOT** link your Facebook pages, personal Twitter accounts, or other sites unrelated to our class.

Give Credit

At the bottom of your biography box, be sure that you include a clickable link and credit back to the original source of your selected background image.

Consider Your Audience

How does an audience change how you write? Remember, Ms. Ward is not the only person who will read your profile. Not only will your classmates be reading your work, but anyone on the web has access. Will someone who does not know that you have created this profile as part of an assignment be able to understand what you have written? If not, consider revising your piece, keeping your larger audience in mind.

Grade

The following criteria will be used to grade your About.Me profile:

Ideas and Organization: /5 points

The structure/form of the student's writing supports the ideas presented in the piece. The writing maintains a sharp, distinct thesis that incorporates detailed reasons to support that thesis development. The writing addresses the prompt and reveals a strong understanding of the task and audience.

Content: /5 points

The writing clearly identifies and explains a metaphor for how the student understands himself/herself as a writer. The writer fully supports the thesis (metaphor) with well-developed explanations and details. The writer appropriately and skillfully incorporates relevant examples, elaborations, explanations, descriptions, definitions, and/or quotations.

Style: /5 points

The writer purposefully uses a variety of sentence structures, rich vocabulary, colorful verbs, and descriptive language. The writer has clearly considered the effect of his/her word choice (diction), sentence structure and arrangement, and tone on the reader.

Presentation and Design: /5 points

The student clearly considers the interaction of the content and the design for rhetorical effect. Through the font and color choices, background image choice, and embedded links, the writer makes appropriate decisions about how to balance his/her own writing with that of other effects and sources. The design of the site does not detract from the writing. The finished piece feels balanced, well-designed, and polished. The student gives appropriate credit for the use of the selected background image



