



# CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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## **Creative Writing/Advanced Creative Writing** Fall Semester, 2019

## **Summer Writing Assignment** Beginning a Writing Journal

Your summer assignment for Creative Writing is to begin a writing journal by completing the six exercises below. You will use and add to this journal throughout the semester. For example, your first writing assignment will be a personal narrative. If you have any questions, you can email me at [jason@crossroadscollegeprep.org](mailto:jason@crossroadscollegeprep.org).

This assignment is due on the first day of class, August 21, 2019. You may either share it with me via email, Google Drive, or hand in a hard copy on the first day of class. Label each exercise below clearly. This assignment will count for both a participation and a homework grade, so please be thorough and complete.

### **All Creative Writing and Advanced Creative Writing students will complete the following:**

#### Exercise 1: "I don't know why I remember . . ."

1. Make a list of 15 small events that have stuck in your memory but for no obvious reason. Avoid important or big moments for this exercise. Think of some of some small and seemingly insignificant memories or experiences.
2. Choose two and list as many concrete details as you can remember.
3. Finally, choose one and write about it. Begin this paragraph with "I don't know why I remember . . ." Don't explain *why* it stuck with you, just do your best to use the concrete details to convey the experience of the memory. Aim for 250 words.

#### Exercise 2: I Am a Camera

1. Take a walk or go someplace that is interesting to you.
2. When you return to your notebook, record every detail as precisely as you can. Aim for 250 words.

#### Exercise 3: Things I Was Taught

1. Choose a person who is or has been very influential in your life.
2. Create a list of 15 things this person has taught you. They can be big life lessons and smaller things as well. Title this list "Things that x taught me."

#### Exercise 4: I Want to Know Why

1. Create a list of 20 things that fit into this category of things not known to you.
2. Avoid abstractions and really big topics. Limit to things not known from the week you are writing or from a recent event with family, for example.
3. Title this list "I Want to Know Why"

### Exercise 5: (False) Epiphanies I've Had

1. Think of a time when you had an epiphany--a moment when you believed, for sure, that you had the answer to something or that you understood something better.
2. Name the epiphany and then write down the events that led up to this moment of belief or understanding
3. Now do the same things for a moment when you believed you had an epiphany--a moment when you believed, for sure, that you had the answer to something or that you understood something better--but that, upon later reflection, turned out to be wrong.
4. Name this false epiphany and write down the events that followed this moment and that helped you determine that your epiphany was false.

### Exercise 6: Lists

1. Think of things you like to read, talk, and think about and things you like to do. Avoid big concepts by try to make them as concrete and specific as possible, almost like you're creating a list of words to type in to Google to do an internet search. Make sure there are 5 in each category.
2. Make a list of these under the headings "Read", "Talk", "Think", and "Do".
3. Next make a list of things you think you'd like to write about. Be as concrete and specific in your thinking as in number 1 above.
4. Make a list of these things under the heading "I'd Like to Write About." Aim for 20. You'll use this list to support your writing when you get stuck or when you're not sure what to write about.

### Exercise 7: You Know/I Know

1. Think of a place, person, or event that you know really well and that you likely know more about than other people.
2. Write a paragraph that begins with "What everyone knows about x is . . ."
3. Next write a paragraph that begins with "But what I know about x is . . ." where you reveal your special knowledge and unique perspective.

### **Only students in Advanced Creative Writing will do the following:**

Students in Advanced Creative Writing must use any of the above exercises to create a finished short story, short play, or series of poems. Aim for 3-5 pages.