Profile

Place, Thing, or Idea

## Due by 11:59pm on 10 November 2019

## Worth 20% of total class grade

## Approx. 750-1250 words

# Assignment:

Write an essay in which you profile a place, thing, or idea.

Conduct research about a place, thing, or event on UA campus or in Tuscaloosa. Interview a living person - not a relative, friend, or family member - that has first-hand knowledge of or experience with your subject. Then, combine this research, descriptive elements, and interview information into a single, cohesive essay which introduces this topic to an audience and provides them with relevant information about it.

**Title your document “Profile Essay - Yourfirstname Lastname”** (use your actual name)

## Make sure your essay includes the following:

* An angle that allows you to approach the profile subject with a specific focus
* A current, firsthand account (you’ve actually engaged with your subject this semester, specifically for this assignment)
* Research to help you establish context or provide necessary background. This should include at least one interview (with the person being profiled and/or other people who can provide additional details and perspectives on the subject)
* Thoughtful organization that helps your readers navigate this essay
* Tone and style appropriate for your subject and purpose
* In-text citations and a works cited page

# Assignment Goals:

1. To contact a living human being about your chosen topic, respectfully request an interview, and conduct an informative interview about this topic.
2. To use descriptive details to provide audiences with a mental image of what your subject looks, sounds, or felt like.
3. To develop research skills necessary to provide relevant background/context about your subject.
4. To combine different elements of the research and writing process into a single informative/descriptive essay.

# Constraints:

You may not write an essay about a person.

You may not interview a friend, relative, or immediate family member. (Or yourself!)

You may not write about a sorority/fraternity house.

## Potential topics (But you can certainly choose one that’s not on this list)

An event on campus or in town

A musical or theatrical performance

A building, business, or museum

A department on campus, the local/city government, or registered student organization

# Audience and Purpose:

Your teacher and classmates will be the initial audience for this essay. Then, you’ll be revising this essay for publication on your ePortfolio website with the potential for a larger audience outside your class.

# Context:

In the previous memoir assignment, you wrote your own story. In the profile unit, you’ll combine those storytelling skills with research and firsthand experience to write a profile of your chosen subject. Just as the memoir was a chance to expand the world of your audience by telling your story, the profile essay is a chance to do something similar with the story of something else.

Note: Your roommates, close friends, or family ***may not*** be chosen as subjects for this topic. However, you don’t necessarily have to profile a person: events and places would be acceptable (and really interesting, too).

# Resources:

[City of Tuscaloosa](https://visittuscaloosa.com/events/) - a list of events happening in Tuscaloosa

[University of Alabama Events Page](https://www.ua.edu/events/) - official UA events

[Historical Buildings in Tuscaloosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Tuscaloosa_County%2C_Alabama) - the Wikipedia page for historic buildings in Tuscaloosa

For first-hand interviews:

[How to Conduct and Interview for Research](https://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/2018/01/30/how-to-conduct-interviews-for-research/) - by The Visual Communication Guy

# Format:

Follow MLA format -- paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font or other similar font**,** standard 1” or 1.25” margins. You should include in-text citations and a works cited page if you find the need to reference any outside ideas or language.