

DUE BY 11:59PM ON 10 NOVEMBER 2019

WORTH 20% OF TOTAL CLASS GRADE

APPROX. 750-1250 WORDS

**ASSIGNMENT:**

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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:**

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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:**

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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:**

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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:**

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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:**

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[City of Tuscaloosa](#) - a list of events happening in Tuscaloosa

[University of Alabama Events Page](#) - official UA events

[Historical Buildings in Tuscaloosa](#) - the Wikipedia page for historic buildings in Tuscaloosa

For first-hand interviews:

[How to Conduct and Interview for Research](#) - by The Visual Communication Guy

## **FORMAT:**

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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.