

Cultivating Voice: A Writing Tutor's Craft

The Evergreen State College, Writing Center

Our First Writing Invitation: How I Write

In all my years of teaching writing and training writers to become tutors, I've been struck by how much we ignore an important primary source: ourselves. This writing asks you to deeply examine your own writing process as a window to begin helping other writers explore their process.

As you begin your exploratory essay, consider the following questions in no particular order:

The Story of How You Write

What's your history with writing? What do you know about how you transform an idea through the time machine of the written word? How do you stage a writing process production? What tools do you use to build your sets? What conditions seduce you? What weather? Where? When? Do you need anything tangible around you? Do you write for yourself or know you need an audience? What feelings emerge as the mind's third eye travels to hand above keyboard or fingers around pen? Do you have a muse? What mysteries have you solved? What riddles remain? When do you know you are finished? Why do you write?

There are no length or style requirements for this creation. I encourage you to use the full range of your creativity to develop a meaningful mirror through which you can gaze at the writer you have been, are, and will become.

Drafts will be due throughout the quarter (see syllabus). For this writing invitation, you are most certainly encouraged to meet with a current writing tutor or someone in the class as part of the practicum. The most current iteration of your writing journey, including all notes, drafts, musings, art, and self-reflections, will be due as part of your portfolio at the end of the quarter.