

Portrait Inspired Creative Writing Challenge

After exploring the “Humans of New York” website, you will write your own piece inspired by the short biographies present on the website. The catch: you won’t be writing about yourself, but about a person whose story you DO NOT know. You will create their story.

1. Choose 1 of the portraits that are on display in class.
2. Write a biographical story for the person in the portrait, in the first person point of view. Climb inside their head and tell their story, as if you are they. You will become their voice.
3. Use the guiding questions to help inspire your writing and to add ideas to your piece. You do not have to answer each one, nor should your paragraph seem to be a listed set of responses.
4. Write a minimum of 1 page.
5. Don’t forget to use POWERFUL, VIVID language. No weak words; only WOW words.
6. Start strong! Hook me into your piece with a great first line.



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT FOR YOUR FIRST PERSON, PORTRAIT INSPIRED WRITING:

What is your name?

Where do you live?

Why are you where you are?

What are you doing?

What are you *really* thinking?

What do you want more than anything right now?

What is a secret you haven't told anyone but you'd like to confess right now?

What is a problem you are having?

Who are your friends?

What did you do yesterday? What are you going to do tomorrow?

What do you have in your pocket?

What is a habit you are trying unsuccessfully to break?

What is your most important relationship?

How does it feel to be in your body?

What is your biggest fear?

How do you feel about your setting?

What has just happened to you?

Where is this photo situated?

What happened just before and/or just after this photo was taken?

What were you feeling (what emotion(s) were you experiencing) in this moment?

Who is the other person in the photo with you?

Where are you going? Where are you coming from?

What is your dream? What are your dreams/goals?













