

**Creative Nonfiction and Science Writing**  
**Unit 2 Major Assignment: Writer's Essay**  
Assignment Sheet

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**DUE DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Reflect on your own writing process. How does it compare to those described in the Rymer essay and the other readings from this unit? Does your writing process change depending on the genre you're writing or the audience you're addressing? For this essay, imagine that you are addressing a reader who wants to learn how to be a better writer. And be sure to reference the readings from this unit in your essay.

**PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment asks you to contribute to the growing body of work that helps writers think about writing. As a writer, you can contribute significantly to this conversation. The assignment is also an opportunity to discover something new about yourself and your writing practice.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GENERATIVE CONSTRAINTS**

- Write 3-5 double-spaced pages.
- Include a title that hooks the reader and/or adds meaning to your essay.
- Imagine your reader to be someone who is interested in writing and who wants to learn more. A novice writer should learn some techniques for how to compose or revise from your essay.
- Your essay should be written creatively, and it should engage the reader. Find an unexpected approach to this assignment that will make your reader want to seek more of your work.
- At some point in your essay, say something about the steps you took to compose this assignment. In other words, expose your process in this process-based essay. Some things to consider: Did you write any of it by hand? Did you use the computer? Did you cut and paste? Did you delete words or blocks of text while you were writing? Did you edit only after you had finished a full draft? Did you borrow language from other sources? At what point did you refer to the course readings or other sources? At what point did you check this assignment sheet? How long did it take you to compose the project? Did you compose it in one sitting? Does your process vary from one writing task to the next? Is there any feature of your practice that remains consistent, no matter if you are writing a letter or a poem?
- Reference the Rymer essay and at least one other course reading in your essay. Compare your experience to other descriptions of writers' processes.
- References to other writers should be blended into your prose and should not read as "tacked on." Don't "drop quotes"; all quotes should be prefaced and followed by your own words. Introduce quotes and integrate them into the grammar of your prose, while remaining faithful to the integrity of the source.
- Lead your reader through the essay. The connections between sentences and paragraphs should be clear, and the essay, as a whole, should be easy to follow.
- Style, tone, word choice, verb tense, grammar, and spelling should be consistent. All departures from convention should have a clear purpose and should contribute to the meaning of the piece.