

American Literature – Ms. Kittelson
Epistolary Narrative Assignment
Friday, May 29, 2009

Write a semi-autobiographical epistolary narrative.

Begin the brainstorming process by answering the following questions:

If you were to write your life story as a slightly fictionalized epistolary, how might you begin?

What scene(s) from your life might you explore?

What characters from your life would you include?

What fictional character(s) could you add?

Whom would you write to first?

Remember to use in your story:

- Variance of voice (diction, rhythm, quantity of words)
- Variance of perspective
 - Pessimism vs. optimism, for example
- Variance of goals and desires

The characters should sound and behave differently.

You are encouraged to write both real and fictional characters so that you may: 1) keep some family secrets; and 2) use your imagination.

GUIDELINES:

Your final product should be in book form – perhaps use a photo album or scrapbook as your base.

Your book should be similar in length and word-count to one of the *Griffin and Sabine* books.

Your story should offer a glimpse into your life – either focusing on one central issue or event or on the entire breadth of your life. But, keep in mind that the more focused your narrative is on one central idea, the more compelling it will surely be. Think of it as a single story written as a collection of letters (and/or texts, e-mails, MySpace comments, Twitter updates, Facebook messages, personal blogs, post cards, notes passed in class, and other similar forms of written communication).

Your work may contain photos, drawings, collages, illustrations and/or any other artistic medium that makes sense given the central idea. The more full and rich the book, the higher your grade will be.

The evaluation of your project will be based on a balance of effort and results. You will be awarded up to 100 points. These points will be placed in TWO columns on the spreadsheet – BOTH exam and essay, so it will be worth a significant portion of your Q4 grade and hence your SEM II grade.

DUE DATE: Friday, June 12 at the beginning of class. If you are absent on that day and do not turn this project in ahead of time, you will be awarded a zero.

NO LATE EPISTOLARY PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

- You will be given some class time to work on this.
- You are encouraged to e-mail me along the way at akittelson@gusd.net
- Check the Web site for any updates: www.webstaclearcourse.com