

**RESEARCH WRITER'S JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT #1**  
**WRITER'S SELF-ASSESSMENT AND GOALS**  
**BCUSP 135 (DR. MONDAL)**  
**YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Submission Guidelines**

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Enter your responses to this assignment in the spaces provided. Save the file as RWJ1\_LastName\_FirstName and submit it in the appropriate Catalyst Collect It dropbox, accessible at <https://catalyst.uw.edu/collectit/dropbox/sharleen/15063>, before class on Monday, 4/4.

**Purpose**

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Your first journal assignment works toward two main goals:

- 1) What you share will **help me to understand who you are as a writer**—that is, your past experiences with writing, your sense of your own strengths and difficulties with academic writing, and the aspects of your writing that you would like to improve, in addition to your familiarity with library resources. My hope is that knowing this information will help me to respond better to you and to your writing.
- 2) What you share will help you **to identify your needs and goals as a writer**. Taking the time to reflect on your writing experiences gives you the opportunity to think through what writing means to you and what you want out of this course. In writing, as in many other pursuits (artistic endeavors, athletic training, business, etc.), taking the time to figure out what you want, setting specific goals, and visualizing where you want to be by a certain time (for us, the end of the quarter) makes you more likely to succeed. In fact, this journal assignment is just the first in a series of journal assignments you will complete this quarter that will help you keep your goals in mind and stay on track.

**Instructions**

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Write a short response to each of the following questions.

1. What Discovery Core (DC) classes have you taken?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Have you had previous library instruction as part of these classes? If so, in which classes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did you learn about library resources and services from this previous library instruction?



9. In Sherman Alexie's "The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me," Alexie describes the *stakes* of reading and writing for him—that is, why reading and writing *matter* in his life. In order to explain this, he tells the story of how several key experiences shaped his understanding of the meaning of reading and writing for him. In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the stakes of reading and writing for you, including in your answer some of the key moments in your life that helped define your relationship with reading and writing. Remember that it is ok if your experiences or stakes are different from Alexie's; indeed, you might not really care for reading and writing. What is important is that you are honest about your experiences and candid about how they have shaped you as a reader and writer.