

Assignment #1: Due by Friday, June 22nd—Save it to the Google Drive folder labeled Passion Essay! I will share folder with you! Write about Your Passion: What Makes You YOU?

In order to get to know you better AND to get a look at your writing skills, your 1st summer assignment is a **400-500 word double-spaced essay** in MLA Format (that's at least 2 pages) using Times New Roman 12 pt type.

4 line info block in upper left double-spaced--(your name, teacher name, class name, date)

Catchy title centered--just 12 pt Times Roman, no fancy font or underline or italics

header in upper right corner--your last name and pg 1 in TIMES NEW ROMAN 12 Point!

Topic: What's your passion? What makes you tick? Love reading comic books, playing piano or fine-tuning the art of the afternoon nap? Tell me about it! Or perhaps you enjoy crushing friends at Wii tennis, singing in the shower, skipping class, texting, watching or playing rugby, baking blackberry muffins or eco-travel. Your answer can be anything -- I want to know about whatever makes you ... YOU! Use any format or tone you like, just tell me in a compelling fashion what you love to do most. If it's baseball, don't tell me about the game of baseball and how it's played. Tell me how YOU are passionate about it. What have you done to develop that passion?

How to Write About Your Passion

More than anything else, if you're going to set pen to paper for leisure's sake, it's important to pick a topic that interests you. Better still – choose to write about something that you are absolutely passionate about. For some of you, this will be easy. Many professional writers have admitted that they write because they don't know what else they would do with themselves. It's such an integral part of who they are that to not write about what they are passionate about would be to deny who they are as a person.

However, for others who don't write for the sake of writing, that usually isn't the case. So, how can you determine what you are passionate about?

- Think about conversations you have every day with friends, family, and classmates.
- Is there something in particular you can't stop talking about?
- Is there a given subject that people you know always solicit your opinion about, like movies, food, or cars? If so, chances are your passion and your knowledge shines through enough to make you something of an authority among your peers.

Things to keep in mind when writing about your passion:

- **Detail WHY you're passionate about the topic.** Be specific and descriptive. Explain yourself clearly. Avoid clichés like, "it's so awesome," "isn't this cool," and "you can see why I love this."
- **Don't beg people to love your passion as much as you do.** This isn't a debate. Simply paint a picture for them as to why your passion is amazing, and lure them over with your words.
- **Feel free to use technical terms and jargon.** This will help solidify your expert opinion – but be sure to explain those terms. Otherwise, those people who are not (yet) passionate about your topic will be confused.

****Watch for variety in your sentence beginnings. DON'T start every sentence with I or My!** Golden rule in an assignment like this is just one **I or My** to start a sentence in each paragraph. Vary your sentence openers with phrases and clauses!

Passion Essay Checklist--use this before submission!

****This essay often becomes the springboard for your college admissions and scholarship essays!**

___ Last name and pg # in upper right in Times Roman 12 pt

___ IN UPPER LEFT at 1" top margin include 4 line double-spaced info block

Your Name

Teacher Name

Class Name

Date

___ Clever title is centered in Times Roman 12 pt. It is NOT boldfaced or underlined or bigger or in any fancy font. Here are a couple examples from your peers. There were many more good ones!

Step to the Beat of the Bass

Poco a Poco

Blue and White, Fight Trojans Fight!

The Running (WO)Man

___ Whole paper is in Times Roman 12 pt. and double-spaced but there are not EXTRA spaces between each paragraph.

___ Be sure the essay discusses some **VERY SPECIFIC EVENT** or **moment** or **experience** that had an impact on you--that drove you to this passion. This is NOT an informative essay about a sport or hobby and it's not an essay about just a love for all kinds of sports. It's about YOU fully and deeply engaged in something you are passionate or care deeply about!

___ Look at the beginnings of your sentences. Vary the openers. No more than ONE sentence in each paragraph can begin with the same words. (Watch out for I and My)

___ Revise to get rid of all the instances of

am is are was were has have had

"be" in any form: would be, might have been go get got

***Start by highlighting them to draw attention to them then revise to replace with action verbs that bring your writing to life!**

___ **Insert a 2x2 image of YOU** engaged in your passion. Hopefully you have a picture in Snapchat or Instagram or Facebook or one you can scan. **TEXT-WRAP** the image within the body of your essay.

