

Assignment

For the fourth and fifth projects of this course, you'll be making a big shift: turning from past and present to *future*, from reflection and integration to *application*, from your major and wider UMass experience to the world *beyond*. I've titled the fourth paper "Community" and the fifth "Life," but those are more placeholders than anything. The former is meant to be a relatively open space to pursue, in writing, some *vision* you have about your future – where you would like to live, what community or communities you'd like to join, what projects or issues you'd like to be involved with, what enthusiasms or passions you'd like to continue to pursue or worldly problems you'd like to help solve. The last paper is meant to be more *planful*, more focused on employment, career, graduate school, etc. – though that order can be switched if desired. The two final papers can be connected: say, one involving a more general treatment, the other a more specific one; or they can be independent of one another: the first about one vision you have of the future, the second about another.

Along with developing the content of these papers, we'll also be turning our attention to the e-portfolios that you'll be designing, working on, and turning in at the end of the course. These last two papers are thus good opportunities for you to explore multi-media and/or digital aspects of your writing. And we'll continue practicing public speaking as well!

Your final paper for Project 4 should be around 1,250 – 1,750 words (about 5-7 pages typed, with double line spacing, 12-point font, and one-inch margins) and will need to be revised substantially through at least two drafts. Generative writing (including another speech) will be assigned to help spur your ideas, and peer response will be used to help you hone your composition.

As before, please remember that much of your writing in this class will be "public" to varying degrees – I will read what you write in early drafts, and several classmates will as well. And through both our course blog and your e-portfolio, your final papers will be more broadly available. Talk to me if you're concerned about your or other people's privacy – I will also be on the lookout for issues connected to the *publicity* of your writing.

The key due dates for this assignment are

- T 10/31: speeches!
- Th 11/02: speeches, continued!
- T 11/07: initial draft of essay due (bring 2 copies to class)
- Th 11/09: workshop
- T 11/14: final, copyedited version of essay due.

See the syllabus for policies regarding attendance and due dates.