

Assignment

For your fifth project, you'll continue the turn you began in Project 4 away from the earlier work of the course, shifting from the past and present to the future. As with the fourth project, you'll keep thinking about how you might "apply" what you've learned at UMass to the world beyond and how you might continue your intellectual, personal, and social development *after* college. But if the fourth paper was meant to be a relatively open space to pursue some vision you have about your future – about, for example, where you would like to live or what social projects you'd like to be involved in, the fifth paper is meant to be more specific, more *planful*, more thoughtful about the knowledge, skills, and ambitions you've acquired in college and how you might now use those in making a life for yourself. As I indicated with Project 4, these two final papers can be connected – this one, for example, the more specific half of the first – or they can be independent of one another. So, if Project 4 was about your desire to continue creative writing, Project 5 might be a draft personal statement for applications to MFA programs. Or if your ultimate career goal is to work in publishing – or politics, urban revitalization, refugee resettlement – Project 5 might synthesize recent research on career trends in that field or profile an organization or job and walk us through the steps you'll need to join that world – even if it's a very long-range plan. (It's also fine to switch the order of these projects, the first more planful, the second more open.)

Along with writing this final paper, you'll also need to make progress over the next few weeks on the e-portfolio that you'll turn in at the end of the course. We'll have another lab day later in the semester to work on this; and the final two meetings of the semester will be devoted to oral presentations of your draft e-portfolios. So as you're working on this last paper, be thinking also about how you want to present your work for this class, and yourself in general, online.

Your final paper for Project 5 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 will be assigned to help spur your ideas, and peer response will be used to help you hone your composition. Your "paper" can include audio, video, images, etc.

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

Tu 11/21: initial draft of essay due;

Th 11/30: final, copyedited version of essay due.

See the syllabus for policies regarding attendance and due dates.