

Significant Meal Auto-Ethnography
ENGL 102
Professor Benjamin
Fall 2022

Prompt:

Food means more to us than just sustenance. Within food are conversations and experiences, memories and expressions. For this assignment, you are to tell the story of a meal that holds significance to you and your life. This could be a once-in-a-lifetime trip to a fancy restaurant, a holiday spent at your grandmother's, a dish that is culturally important, or a tradition of getting Wendy's after dance class. What matters is not the loftiness of the meal, but rather your relationship to it.

This assignment, for the most part, is a personal narrative. Your essay should include a description of the meal, an explanation of why it is important to you, as well as a discussion of the food itself, meaning an exploration into where it comes from, its origins, and a bit of history behind the meal, both personal and more universal. This calls for some research, as you may not know why Italian-Americans celebrate Christmas with the Feast of the Seven Fish(es) or why McDonald's only offers the McRib at limited times. This research component should be blended in naturally to your larger narrative. To successfully fulfill this assignment, you are to have at least *two* sources, preferably ones from well-regarded publications.

Components:

Proposal
First Draft
Revision

Length:

Proposal: 250 words
Draft: 1000 words (minimum)
Revised Essay: 1700 words (1500-2000 words)

Rubric:

Successful assignments will use descriptive language to not only explain the food eaten, but the surrounding circumstances as well. Successful assignments will also manage to achieve all the hallmarks of a prototypical review while also using a larger narrative to capture the experience.

Due Dates:

Proposal: Thursday, October 13th
First Draft: Tuesday, October 25th
Revision: Thursday, November 3rd