

A Writer's Inventory

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Month and Year You Started at UCR:

Email:

Your Major (or Majors you are considering):

Main Question: Who are you as a writer?

In three paragraphs discuss who you are as a writer. You can build on the “elaboration possibilities” or go in new directions, but make sure you answer each of the three paragraph prompts in a complete, well organized paragraph with a controlling idea (or topic sentence if you prefer that term). You should spend some time prewriting and drafting before you compose your final answers.

Paragraph #1: Tell me something about your life history as a writer

Elaboration possibilities: Do you like writing in academic situations? Do you like creative writing? What kinds of classes that required writing have you taken and how do you feel you did in those classes. What's the most recent thing you have written that you feel proud of? What are your thoughts about your high school or previous college English and composition classes?

Paragraph #2: Assess your skills as a writer.

Elaboration possibilities: At what level do you think your writing skills are now? What are your most significant strengths and weaknesses as a writer? What makes you nervous or excited/enthusiastic as a writer? How could you be a better writer?

Paragraph #3: Write an extended simile exploring your relationship with writing.

Elaboration possibilities: For example, I might write a paragraph about how for me writing is like swimming. I can't write unless I get in the water, but it's so hard to jump into that pool when I'm tired and the water is cold. And even though sometimes I do go swimming with other people, ultimately I have to be able to swim alone in the water...etc. Make sure you specifically explain your individual relationship with writing and avoid generalized commentary on writing. If an illustration helps you be creative on this, go ahead and include one (you can bring it to class with your hard copy).