

Writing Project #1: Narrative Essay (10%)

CONTEXT:

One of the greatest sources of hope for people throughout the ages has been the prospect of learning something new to become better. In the video, “A Tribute to Hope,” Dr. Michael Penn reminds us that “The fondest hope of every human being is to reach our **potential**.” It is human nature to want to grow and develop our bodies and minds to overcome limitations, but this cannot be done without the transmission of knowledge. The development of education was a critical advancement in this endeavor. However, in many times and places, education has been limited to the wealthy or has been kept back from people by the powers that be as a means of control. In societies where governments restrict individuals’ access to education, some individuals go to great lengths, even risking their own lives, to exercise their basic human right to read and learn. In “Book War,” Wang Ping describes her efforts to learn during the Cultural Revolution in China when all foreign books were banned and being caught even possessing them could lead to imprisonment or worse.



DIRECTIONS:

For this assignment, write a 900-word-minimum personal essay exploring what Wang Ping’s story means to you and your educational journey. You are allowed and even required to use the pronoun “I” (but always avoid the pronouns “you”) to answer the following three questions:

- 1) What does “Book War” teach you about the purpose of your education and reaching your potential?
- 2) What obstacles have you faced or currently face in acquiring your education and how you have and/or are trying to overcome them?
- 3) How can you use your education to improve your life and the lives of others to bring yourself and others hope?

This is a multimodal assignment so please include **one image** at the end or beginning of the paper that captures your feelings about the topic. It can be embedded in the text as well.

Format: Your paper should be typed and use the following MLA formatting rules:

- 1” margins all around
- Times New Roman 12 point font
- Correct heading: student’s name, professor’s name, class, and date
- Running header: student’s last name and page number at the top right of each page
- Centered title
- Double spacing
- ½ inch indentation for the first line of each paragraph

Use this Essay Map as a Guide



Introduction Paragraph:

- In your introductory paragraph, explain what education has meant to human beings in diverse places and times:

Education has been a significant

- Then, explore a bit about what Wang Ping's self-education meant to her and those around her.

In Wang Ping's story "Book War",...

- Finally, transition into the following thesis statement template and fill it out according to your choice of controlling ideas:

Wang Ping's story teaches us that the purpose of education is..., that the obstacles of x, y, and z that I have faced in pursuing my education can be overcome by..., and that by achieving my educational goal of..., I can use my education to help improve the lives of others and bring hope to myself and others. I can reach my potential through education.

Body Paragraphs:

For each body paragraph, begin with a topic sentence that connects main ideas 1, 2, and 3 previewed in your thesis to your examples about that main idea. Then, develop (explain/analyze/describe) each example.

Conclusion Paragraph and image:

Finally, write a concluding paragraph (avoid the transitional expression "In conclusion,") in which you make one final unique point about your whole narrative.

- ✓ Include an image that captures your feelings of hope based on what you have written