

Sample Informal Writing Assignments for English 200—Vocation (Wilhoit)

Wilhoit
English 200
Fall, 2013

Journal Assignment #1

What does it mean to have a career, vocation, or calling?

For this assignment, I'd like you to explore several related terms that we'll continually refer to in this class: career, vocation, and calling.

In your journal entry, answer the following questions. You may not have definitive answers to some of them yet, which is fine—use your journal entry to help you work through some ideas on the topic.

1. What does it mean to have a career? Do you have any particular career goals? What are they? Why do you wish to pursue them?
2. What does it mean to have a “vocation”? How is having a vocation different than having a career, if at all? What is your current vocation? What do you hope it will be in the future?
3. What does it mean to have a “calling”? Have you ever felt a calling in your life? What is or was it? How did you act on it? How is having a calling related to having a career or having a vocation?

Be sure your response is as thorough as possible—you will be returning to these questions later in the course. The more complete your response is now, the easier it will be for you to complete the later assignment.

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Journal Assignment #3
Source of Joy

Take some time to consider what brings you joy in life, what makes you feel content and fulfilled. This may be more of a challenge than you think.

For example, don't be fooled by what you think your answer *should* be, what others might expect it to be, or what society and culture suggest or insist it ought or needs to be. Also, think beyond what you find merely fun or enjoyable and instead try to identify what also makes you feel content, fulfilled, or at peace with yourself—something you get lost in when you do it, something that reenergizes your life.

In your journal entry, explore what this is. Describe it. Explain how it makes you feel and what you gain by engaging in it. Recount when and how you first discovered it. Reflect on the last time you did it or on how frequently you're able to do it. Why this and not something else?

As we continue to explore the meaning of calling and vocation, you need to think about issues like this. What—truly and honestly—brings joy and meaning to your life?

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Journal Assignment #7
Vocational Talents, Gifts, Personality

Part 1: Identifying Your Values

First, quickly write down what you believe to be the guiding principles or values in your life. These are attributes most important to you and that guide your life (or you hope guide your life).

Part II—Values Inventory

Complete the “Life Values Inventory” online:

[http://www.cvs.k12.mi.us/careers/pdfs/LIFE%20VALUES%20INVENTORY%205_01_08_1%200\(2\).pdf](http://www.cvs.k12.mi.us/careers/pdfs/LIFE%20VALUES%20INVENTORY%205_01_08_1%200(2).pdf)

Look over your results and list the 5 or 6 that rank the highest.

Part III Interview

Have a conversation with your parent or guardian in which he or she provides you with at least three words that he or she thinks best describe who you are. List those next.

Reflect on the results of this brief investigation. What trends or patterns emerge? What was surprising (if anything)? Do you think the results are accurate? How so?

Journal Assignment #11
Volunteering and Vocation

For the last paper in the course, you are researching an organization you might like to commit time to in volunteer service. The assignment asks you to consider how the organization can benefit from your gifts and talents and how you might benefit by giving your time in service.

Now that you have decided on the organization or group you want to investigate, answering these questions may help you identify aspects of yourself and the organization you ultimately write about.

In your journal entry, answer these questions:

- What is the organization?
- What is its primary mission or goal?
- How does it attempt to accomplish that mission or goal?
- What types of activities do members of the organization engage in?
- Who do they help?

- What specific talents or skills do you have that would help this organization accomplish its mission? What do you bring to the table?
- What aspects of your personality best suit you for working with this organization?
- What values do you possess that align with the organization's mission or goals?
- What relevant past experience do you have that would help you in your work with this organization?

- What, personally, would you hope to gain by working for this organization?
- How might working with this organization help improve you as a person?

- How would your participation help the people this organization seeks to help?

(Modify the questions as necessary. For example, if you are working for an environmental group cleaning up wetlands somewhere, modify the questions so they make sense.)