

English Department Writing Sample for College Writing, Fall 2010

Please write the following information at the top of your sample:

Your name and student ID number

Your course and section number

Today's date and the time limit you were given

According to your professor's instructions, please write a brief essay in response to the prompt below. Develop your answer as fully as possible in the time allotted, and please use your best English, as this will help us determine if the course you are in is the one that will best meet your needs.

In the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Jefferson and his co-authors composed a document that changed the course of history and came to define a nation. Clearly, our Common Text is a great example of how powerful writing can be. Maybe you haven't yet written something of such enormous consequence as Jefferson, but think for a moment about your own writing: What is the most important writing you've ever done? (It might be a research paper, a story, an application essay, a love letter, a blog or diary entry, or a even a birthday card.) Describe the document, the process you went through to create it, who your audience was, and the impact that it had. Did the writing accomplish what you wanted it to? Why was this particular piece so meaningful?

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