

## English Department Writing Sample for College Writing, Spring 2011

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

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*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 College Writing II you will focus on research writing, but you've certainly done some form of research before now. Whether you were looking for an answer to a problem, trying to find information for a class, or simply learning more about some area of your own interest, you were functioning as a researcher. Think about a time you set out to discover something, and describe what this process was like. It had to start from curiosity. What sparked your curiosity? What did you want to learn and why? Where did you turn for information? (Did you look at books? Did you turn to the internet? Did you talk to people? Did you go to the library?) Were you surprised by what you learned? What was the outcome? (Did you write a paper, change your mind about a topic, or make a decision based on what you learned?) As you write, do not simply answer these questions; rather, use them to focus and develop your ideas, and supply your own organization.

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