

Profiles

To write the essays in this section, the following students selected a person, place, or an event to profile. You will soon find that this assignment challenges you to synthesize multiple texts and viewpoints: including your analytic response to your interviewee's work, the interview itself, and, when appropriate, your own experiences and responses. In addition, you must account for and write to an audience that does not have knowledge of your essay's subject matter. In other words, you need to give the reader your unique "insider's perspective" about your profile subject. As you read each of these essays, note the ways in which the writers attempt to allow the profile's subject to teach you about his or her own unique passions (such as band camp), experiences (crossing the Mexican border into the U.S.), and jobs (custodial work).

Your instructor will set limitations in terms of the kinds of topics you can choose. Some instructors choose a theme—i.e. the environment, media, local culture—and ask students to interview people who work within this area, while others simply ask them to use this assignment to become better acquainted with someone in their lives. Conducting an effective interview is essential for this sequence because your interviewee's vantage point needs to be fully depicted, so you will need to devise provocative questions that allow your subject to give fully developed and detailed responses.



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