

Fresh Approaches

Each student in this section chose to write about something important in his or her life, whether religion, photography, or food. In the case of “Chicketarianism,” Mike Sudolsky writes about how an unfortunate bout of food poisoning led to a decision to limit his food choices—to become a “chicketarian,” something similar in principle to a vegetarian. Another student, Melissa Foucar, examines perception of Christians and her own dedication to Christianity. In “Captured in Time” Tim Tapscott explains how he got started in photography and how it became more than a hobby.

Insightful and sometimes playful, these essays are wholly personal arguments, and as such they have to rely mainly on ethos and pathos. At the same time, their instructors may have allowed—even encouraged—some risk-taking. Do these essays stray from convention? Do they fulfill your expectations of an academic essay? What rules do they break—if any? What risks have the authors taken? What conventional elements of argument do the students rely on to make the essays persuasive?

These essays all include an added medium: photographs. How do they contribute to the authors’ argument? Would the essays read the same without them?



Bicycles serve mainly as a mode of transportation for riders, but this rider seems to use the bicycle as a means of personal expression. Does the rider's aesthetic choice—flowers!—make this typical bicycle more interesting? Does this “fresh approach” make you curious about the bicycle's owner? Do you find creative ways to express yourself, aesthetically or otherwise?