

The Body in Context
Antioch University Seattle, Winter 2009
Dr. Cori Adler

Assignment Description: Narrative Essay “Autobiography of My Body”

Tell a personal story concerning your body, “body image,” or relationship to your body and analyze how it fits its social and historical context.

Your style should be narrative and your voice personal. In other words, you will write this essay as (true) story and use the first person (“I”). Most commonly, a personal essay “frames” a personal story within interpretation (in this case social analysis). That is, the author begins by telling you that s/he learned something about X from the time when.... Then s/he tells the story; then s/he explains what it shows about his/her society.

Don’t tell your **whole** life story. **Choose one particular personal story.** It will help to dramatize a particular event (a significant moment on your life in which you realized something about your body or that illustrates it in hindsight) or to focus on a particular body part (as we did in our imaginary Youtube videos) or to explore how a particular social/body issue applies to you.

Do more than *tell* your story. Analyze it, reflect on it, consider the implications of it. This will help you push your thinking into the social realm.

Format:

Your name
Course title
Assignment title (Autobiography of My Body Paper)
Date turned in

The Title of Your Paper

Your paper should be typed, double spaced, and use correct paragraphing form. Indent at the beginnings of paragraphs. Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs. “Put authors’ ideas in quotation marks when you use their exact words.” When you paraphrase (sum up, explain, etc.) their ideas, name them but don’t use quotation marks, a la: Edut was concerned that she might be laughed at for wearing a tankini at her age and size. Kano includes statistics showing that “overweight” people do not have more health problems than underweight ones.