

Inquiry #1: Writer's Manifesto 1.0

What is writing? What does writing mean to you? What is argument, especially public argument? How do you interact with public arguments that are important to you? The main themes of this course are exploring writing and argument, and developing understandings of what they mean to you. The purpose of this inquiry is to articulate those meanings—to do so, you will be creating a Writer's Manifesto.

A manifesto is defined as “a written statement that describes the policies, goals, and opinions of a person or group.” The shape that yours will take is a decision you must make on your own, but here are some things to consider:

- Is dialect important to writing and argument? What role does it have in academic spheres?
- How does technology affect writing and argument? What role does online communication have in your ideas about what writing and argument are?
- How do you use technology? How does this affect your process?
- How do the conventions of your various disciplines affect how you write and/or argue?
- What should a drafting process look like?

You are free to explore any other ideas that you think are important and relevant. However, this should NOT be a list of blanket statements, like “writing is important.” *Why* is it important?

Papers must be at least 600 words, submitted in MLA-formatted documents of the file types listed on the syllabus. All papers must be accompanied by a reflective memo of at least 200 words.

Inquiry One will be a pass/fail grade, because we are expecting this to just scratch the surface—if we expected you to be set in how you write at the outset of this class, the class itself wouldn’t be that helpful. We will revisit, build on, and revise these manifestos as the semester progresses and as we think more about writing. It should be a polished draft, but your ideas can still be under development.