

# LCCC English Placement Essay

## Reflecting on Your Experiences with Reading and Writing

Instructions:

1. Thinking Take a moment to consider your own experiences with reading and writing- perhaps a time you wrote something you considered "good" or a time when you read something that mattered to you.
2. Connecting Read the passages below and think about how the ideas of the authors might intersect with your own ideas about reading and writing.
3. Writing Finally, write a multi-paragraph college level essay that explains either how reading is (or is not) meaningful or important to you OR what you believe "good" writing is and how you have (or have not) found value in writing.
4. You may spend up to two hours writing a multi-paragraph response, but also leave time so you can make changes to your draft. As you work on your essay, be sure to:
  1. state your main idea
  2. elaborate your points
  3. use details in your description
  4. you might want to reference (directly or indirectly) either of the passages below.
5. Your response will be read in order to determine placement in English.

### Passage #1:

“I am a writer today because I believe that I would never have been able to make this kind of sense of my life and my world if I hadn’t kept at writing and kept at it for my own reasons and my own purposes. That’s the payoff. That’s why writers write. Since writing is often hard and always takes considerable time and energy, there has to be some trade-off. I have to get something from writing. What I get is the unexpected.

“I enjoy discovering things about myself and my world(s) that I had not known, and could not know before I wrote. Without tries at writing, I know I could not ever have discovered precisely these things. It’s the recurring attempt, that try, that is what writing is all about.”

—James Zebroski

### Passage #2:

“Reading, like gardening, sometimes feels like too much work. I’d rather watch TV or a video, listen to a new CD, talk on the phone, go out to eat with friends, or play with my dog and cat. But my mind is always questioning why the world is the way it is; when I stop long enough to

catch my breath, picking up a newspaper, magazine, or journal helps me sort out what I already know, what I need to find out, and how to think analytically about...the world.

”I don’t always have time for a “big” book, but I can always find time to read an article. I carry around [reading materials] when I go to the dentist, when I travel by air, car, train, or bus, when I’m waiting for a friend in a restaurant... everywhere. There are magazines in my bathroom reading rack, on the living room coffee table, on the floor next to my bed, on the dining room table, and in stacks on the floor of my office.”

—Lisa Albrecht

*\*These passages originally appeared in the anthology The Subject Is Writing or The Subject is Reading, edited by Wendy Bishop. Permissions pending.*