

Writing Identities

Writing the personal, writing the self(ie)

Collaborative Project Update

Chris Bose + Writing/Shifting Identity

Using the pronoun "I" write about an event that really happened to you.

Writing/Shifting Identity

Now but change one element and rewrite the elements of the story with that change.

Think of changing the place (small town to city), pronoun (what happens when using “we” or “you” or another gender?), time or season (if your event happened in the summer, what happens if you set it in the winter?) or assign a characteristic that is the opposite of your own to the speaker (I love snakes - if you hate snakes).

My Life - Lyn Hejinian

Try writing a sentence for every year of your life. It doesn't have to be representative -- think of what it felt like to be that age. Or shift the constraint: what about one word (or three words) for every year of your life.

Think of concrete and specific details as opposed to totalities. Or use totalities sparingly.

Hejinian's 'long "autobiographical" poem, My Life, has been twice reprinted and updated. Originally thirty-eight stanzas of thirty-eight lines—Hejinian's age at the time of initial publication—the work is now forty-five stanzas of forty-five lines.'

My Life - Lyn Hejinian

Consider a life long project. Come up with a list of ideas or write out one idea for a project that you (might) continue with for the rest of your life.

**Group 1 Workshop
(Group 2 posts by
midnight tonight)**

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

Selfie + Airplane mode:

- How do they operate?
- What makes them work?
- What realities do they articulate?
- How do they build intimacy?

Technology

Write a poem or a story using constraints of social media:

- Twitter: 140 characters or using hashtags
- Write a story told in Facebook status updates
- Create a disappearing SnapChat story
- Write a text exchange story
- Translate an Instagram photo into a poem, story or dialogue
- Design your own social media constraint

Technological Means of Production

Write a selfie (with words) in a box the size of an Instagram or Facebook post.

Translate a selfie into a poem or story.

Use whatever photo is at the top of your Instagram feed as a trigger to write something. Try this every day for a week.

Where are you really from?



Where I'm From - Generate Material

Make a list:

- A place where you're from: drill down into the sediment
- Your parents' interests or work
- An event that stands out in your life
- Food you ate growing up/now
- Music that was/is important to you
- Something some said to you
- A significant object

Where I'm From - Generate Material

- “a **place** could open into a piece of descriptive writing or a scene from memory.
- your **parents' work** could open into a memory of going with them, helping, being in the way. Could be a remembered dialogue between your parents about work. Could be a poem made from a litany of tools they used.
- **an important event** could open into freewriting all the memories of that experience, then writing it as a scene, with description and dialogue. It's also possible to let the description become setting and directions and let the dialogue turn into a play.”

Where I'm From - Generate Material

- “**food** could open into a scene at the table, a character sketch of the person who prepared the food, a litany of different experiences with it, a process essay of how to make it.
- **music** could take you to a scene where the music is playing; could provide you the chance to interleave the words of the song and words you might have said (or a narrative of what you were thinking and feeling at the time the song was first important to you (“Where I'm Singing From”).”

Where I'm From - Generate Material

- “**something someone said to you** could open into a scene or a poem which captures that moment; could be what you wanted to say back but never did.
- **a significant object** could open into a sensory exploration of the object—what it felt, sounded, smelled, looked, and tasted like; then where it came from, what happened to it, a memory of your connection with it. Is there a secret or a longing connected with this object? A message? If you could go back to yourself when this object was important to you, what would you ask, tell, or give yourself?”

Where I'm From - Generate Material

George Ella Lyon

Source: <http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html>

Chris Bose Reading in
AGP @ 6 p.m.

Next Week:

The Architecture of Prose

Group 2 workshop

draft of your collaborative project

Write about a time you felt lucky.

life highlights game