How to Write an Autobiography

“No thinking - that comes later. You must write your first draft with your heart. You rewrite with your head. The first key to writing is... to write, not to think!”

## Objectives:

* To obtain feedback on a practice written task (type 1)
* To reflect on how your language has impacted your identity, culture, and cognition for your own benefice
* To demonstrate understanding of the theoretical and practical concepts established in part one of this unit.

## Task:

* Brainstorm and reflect on ways in which you have been influenced by your experiences in language and culture. Think of specific stories or experiences that you can share that would illuminate the effect of these aspects of your identity.
* Write with your heart. Just write. Don’t think about any structure or word count… get your experience on paper.
* Write with your head. Go back to your work and make some decisions.
  + Decide on a theme or approach to frame your task as a whole
    - consider: in *Mother Tongue*, Tan used the theme of her linguistic relationship with her mother to frame the whole biography, which extended from individual identity to cultural perceptions of the individual.
    - In *On Multilingual Identity*, MinFong Ho used the theme of fragmentation of head, heart, and hands to ultimately demonstrate a division, and then unification of her *self* through the medium of language.
    - You may develop your own creative approach, but may also borrow some of the ideas from these authors.
  + Decide on what can be cut down or removed and what needs to be developed.
  + Decide on other ways that you could present the same idea, perhaps to increase interest or clarity.
* Share with peers, give and accept feedback, make changes
* Submit.
* Publish somewhere!
  + One of my goals for this class is that we begin publishing your work. For example:
    - [http://www.susqu.edu/academics/10602.asp](http://www.susqu.edu/academics/10602.asp" \t "_blank)
    - [http://www.cricketmag.com/faq\_display.asp?CatId=9](http://www.cricketmag.com/faq_display.asp?CatId=9" \t "_blank)
    - [http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/index.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/index.htm" \t "_blank) (Geared a bit more for kids)

## Criterion:

See Written Task Packet at MrMooreWeb.weebly.com 🡪 A1 Lang and Lit 🡪 WT Packet