

AutobioGraphic Narrative¹

Assignment Overview

In our Cal State LA One Book, *The Best We Could Do*, Thi Bui recounts her parents' refugee experiences through an autobiographical graphic novel. Using Bui's book as a model, you will compose a 750-1000 word autobiographical graphic narrative documenting your personal journey to Cal State LA. Like Bui's novel, your narrative should make use of oral histories (i.e.: at least two separate interviews with family members and/or friends) that offer critical perspective on this journey. The narrative should also incorporate original drawings and/or photography that emphasize key moments in your story. This assignment will involve pre-writing activities, multiple drafts, peer-review, and an instructor/student conference.

Objectives

This assignment will ask students to engage course learning outcomes related to writing process (SLO 3), source integration (SLO 4), and style (SLO 5) and demonstrate understanding of rhetorical topics connected to narrative writing including memory, arrangement, and detail/description.

Instructions and Timeline

This project will be completed as a guided process involving several drafting activities and peer working group sessions. Please see below for the schedule of assignments due. Peer-review drafts, reflection letters, and the final project must be submitted by **11:59 PM** on the date due in order to be marked as Complete.

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| R 9/2 | Begin reading Thi Bui's <i>The Best We Could Do</i> . |
| T 9/7 | Review AutobioGraphic Narrative assignment guidelines and complete pre-writing discussion board activity. Conduct your interviews with your sources this week and begin drafting your narrative. |
| T 9/14 | Post Draft 1 of your AutobioGraphic Narrative and Writer's Reflection Letter (Author's Note) to the peer-review discussion board. |
| W 9/15 | Read your assigned peers' drafts and post your Writer's Reflection Letters (Peer Responses) to the peer-review discussion board. |
| R 9/16 | Attend Zoom class for peer-review workshop and writing studio. |
| Week 5 | Attend your scheduled instructor/student conference with a draft of your narrative and answers to conference prep questions. |

¹ This assignment was developed for use in the First-Year Writing Program at California State University, Los Angeles and is aligned with the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) Framework. See First-Year Writing Program, Department of English, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/composition-program> and Transparency in Learning and Teaching, Center for Effective Teaching and Learning, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/cetl/transparency-learning-and-teaching-tilt>.

R 9/30 Submit final Autobiographic Narrative and Writer's Reflection Letter (Project Preface) to the Autobiographic Narrative assignments folder.

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting your final Autobiographic Narrative, please review the following checklist to make sure your submission meets the minimum requirements. Narratives missing any of these criteria will be marked as Incomplete:

- Your final submission must include at least five original drawings and/or photographs illustrating key moments in your story.
- The final word count for your narrative must be between 750-1000 words in length.
- Your narrative must make use of at least two outside sources in the form of interviews with family members and/or friends who can offer additional perspective on your college journey. These interviews should be incorporated, cited, and listed in a References page according to [MLA or APA guidelines](#).
- Both your narrative and the graphics you incorporate must be original compositions.
- Your narrative must demonstrate clear and meaningful engagement with the assignment, that is, it should respond to the prompt and show that you have put effort into your work.

Submission Instructions

Submit your final Autobiographic Narrative to the Canvas assignments folder by **11:59 PM** on **Thursday, September 30, 2021**.

- Go to our Canvas course home page.
- Click on the Assignments link in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.
- Open the Autobiographic Narrative assignment.
- Click Add Submission and upload your Autobiographic Narrative and Writer's Reflection Letter in a Word document.
- Click Save Changes to submit.

Evaluation

Throughout the process of drafting your Autobiographic Narrative, you will receive detailed feedback with questions, comments, and recommendations for future drafts. Assignments that are submitted on time and that meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Complete**. Missing assignments and submissions that do not meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Incomplete**. As per the course grading contract, ten or more Incomplete assignments will result in an NC for the course.