*Dear Students,*

*Welcome! Since this is a writing intensive course, I will be reading and commenting on your writing extensively over the course of the semester. For this reason, I would like to learn a little bit about you as well as about your writing experience. Please type out your answers to these questions and bring them with you to class next time.*

*You will not be graded on the answers you give here, though if you fail to hand in a questionnaire it will count against you. All answers provided are for my benefit alone and so I encourage you to be honest and open.*

*I look forward to working with you all this semester.*

*Best,*

*SK*

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**Please answer the following (be sure to note there is a back to this worksheet):**

1. Tell me a little about your previous experience with writing. More specifically, I’d like to know if what you enjoy and feel confident about when writing (if anything). On the flip side, I would like to know what you find frustrating or difficult about writing. (This can be a list of things. You will write more about your writing life in question #5)
2. What experience, if any, do you have with writing online?
3. What was the last text (book/magazine/website, etc.) that you read that was *not* assigned in a class? What is your all-time favorite book (or other text)?
4. Tell me a little about yourself. What do you like to do? What were you involved in back home? What do you hope to be involved in here? (sports, clubs, Greek life, other organizations, etc.) What kind of hobbies do you have? Music you like? TV or movie obsessions? Anything else that you want to share about yourself?
5. Writing Exercise:

**Part I:** Your reading assignment was to look at the first chapter in David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen’s book *Writing Analytically.* This chapter talks a lot about what good writing is and why it is important. This text is particularly about analytical writing, but I think their ideas are useful for thinking about any *good* writing. Find 3 places within this chapter that you think resonate with the idea that all writing should be good writing.

Part II:

Now, I want you to complete assignment #1 on page 20:

*Write a short autobiographical piece that presents a chapter in your history as a writer. Describe what you now take to be an especially formative experience in how you became the writer you are today. What practices and ideas has this experience or set of related experiences led to?*

As the book says, this exercise offers a good way of sorting out some of your ways of thinking about writing, as well as your identity as a writer. This exercise should be at least 300 words (one page, double spaced), but you are welcome to write more.

\*\*NOTE: You are going to be creating your own blog this semester! Maybe you want to think about what kind of blog you want to create and how this writing experience has led you there.