**Assignment for Thursday, 8/31:**

Since all of my courses feature quite a bit of writing, 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.

In addition to this worksheet, please complete the following reading:

+ *Writing Analytically, 7th ed* pp1-7 and pp14-15

+ Robert Browning “My Last Duchess” (handout)

All my best,

SK

1. 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)?
2. What made you decide to come to Dickinson in the first place?
3. Why did you decide to take this class?
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. Tell me about your experience with writing or your writing process. What do you feel like are your strengths as a writer? With what do you struggle? Is there anything in particular you would like to work on this semester in terms of your writing?
6. Close Reading Your Life: Writing Exercise

Write a brief (one page or so) descriptive piece about yourself. Do this by offering narrative of some revealing and representative “moment”—perhaps a kind of moment that tended to recur—in your life. Sometimes the most telling moments, those that play a significant role in how we come to be who we are, are subtle, small moments, rather

than “big” life-changing experiences. Some of these small but significant moments are barely remembered until we start looking for them with writing.

Your piece will necessarily be a blend of description (what that moment or moments felt like, sounded like, smelled like, looked like, etc.) and more explicit analysis (how that moment or moments impacted you, what you thought about, how you changed, etc), but make sure not to substitute telling readers how you felt for re-creating the experience that made you feel as you did. (Adapted from *Writing Analytically,* p 7 “Writing The Self”)