

But seriously, like, who are you even? a photo-inspired identity narrative

To wrap up our short unit on identity, I want you to think back to the list where we listed our various levels of “self”—young you, pre-teen you, almost-adult you.

For this assignment, you will use various artifacts from your “prior” life/self to reflect on, or even fossilize who *you* are. Or *were*. Whatever.

You have three options, choose one of the three:

1. Follow the model of the blog/book *Dear Photograph*. (Website: dearphotograph.com) I realize that it is not entirely possible to replicate old photos—you may live somewhere new, you might not have access to those “memories”—but do your best to make it work if you like this option.

- Find at least **three** old photographs of at least five years old.
- Do what you can to hold that photo up and compare it with the new setting, then take a new picture.
- Have fun revisiting these moments. Probably cry. Take someone with you as you go.
- Write your “Dear Photograph” story under each “new” photograph.
 - You will need at **least a half-page reflection for each photograph**, written in “Dear Photograph” style. (See book/website.)
 - In doing so, *tell the story* of the photograph. Make me feel what you feel. Use concrete images and be specific. Explain why the history matters.



2. RE-CREATE **three** old photographs such as seen here:

<http://offbeat.topix.com/slideshow/13304>

This option is similar to the above.

- Find at least **three** old photographs of at least five years old.
- Do what you can to replicate that old photograph. Do the *most* you can. Find the same setting, wear the same outfit, if there are people in it, it *must* be the same people.
- Have fun revisiting these moments. Probably cry.
- You may try a different medium if you have home movies.
- Write a “Dear Photograph” story under each “new” photograph.
 - You will need at **least a half-page reflection for each photograph**, still written in “Dear Photograph” style. (See book/website.)
 - In doing so, *tell the story* of the photograph. Make me feel what you feel. Use concrete images and be specific. Explain why the history matters.



OR IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING THAT:

3.

Following the model of the text *Worn Stories* (<http://wornstories.com/>) create a photo/narrative of a piece of clothing that matters to you.

- Find a piece of clothing and take a *professional looking* photograph of it, on a white background.
- Write an at-least one-and-a-half- page narrative about the clothing that tells the *story* of it. Not *why* you like it (not *telling* me why) but a narrative, a story, which really gets to the heart and emotion of the article of clothing.
 - Show, don't tell. Read the blog before you do this.



In addition:

After you write your three ½ page paragraphs or 1 ½ page narrative, please include another **TWO PAGES** of writing where you explain *how the assignment helped you understand (your) identity*.

As you do this, reference the videos we watched (Crash course philosophy: Identity—episodes 18, 19, 20, 22) and/or any additional research or reading that we did in class. You must connect this personal narrative to the grander philosophy of *identity* and how we know who we are, e.g.: is this the same you? why should we preserve these moments? do you want to change? what is with *to thine own self be true*, anyway? how do you know if you're “true to yourself”? etc., etc., etc.

To recap:

- 3 photos with one ½ page paragraph each **OR** one article of clothing with a 1 ½ page story
- 2+ page explaining how this all relates to what we've learned about identity
- MLA format.
- it should look super classy and nice and professional and clear.
 - feel free to scan in pictures and send me emailed copies of things to preserve the color, but also bring a hard copy to class to share.

YOU
DO
YOU

this assignment is so perfect to put on that table with all the pictures of you for your senior grad party

right next to the cake