

## **Portfolio 1: The Process of Preparing for Essay #1**

The first essay will be a reflective (expressive) essay with a focus narrowed from responses to the readings and to the following general topics:

- (1) An experience that changed your life in some way or that made you think differently about something or someone;
- (2) the importance of a specific item or place in your life

By responding to the readings and to the general topics above, you will come up with a focus for your essay that will communicate to your audience (your classmates and myself) something you have learned that you think is significant to you. You may have learned how an experience has changed you in some way or changed your mind about some situation or subject. You may have had an experience from which you have learned some important facts of living. You may describe and recall a certain place or item that has meant a lot to you or that reminds you of a significant event or person in your life. Once you have decided on your specific, narrowed topic, you will continue to respond to the readings in order to refine your writing skills. These readings serve as examples of reflective/expressive writing and also as models for your writing.