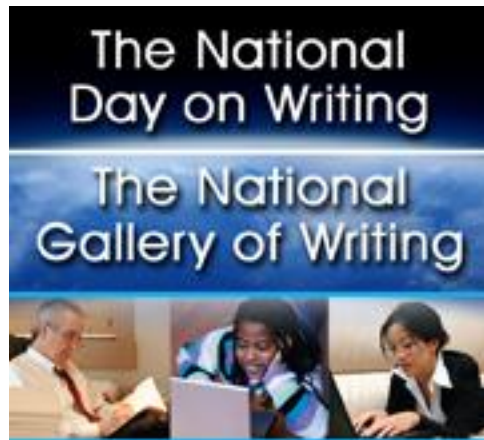


Selecting Writing to Share with Others

For those of you who are wanting to make a submission to the National Gallery, perhaps one of your most difficult decisions will be selecting just the right one among the many writings you already have in your portfolio. How do you go about deciding which one of your writings is, indeed, most important to you? Although the only restriction for this event is that you may submit only one piece of writing per gallery, taking time to consider which piece(s) you will submit may take some reflection.

As a result, you might consider the following steps to move you toward those submissions:



1. Reflect upon the various types of writing you've already done: letters to family and friends, poems, memos, thank-you notes, tributes, letters of complaint, letters to the editor, blogs representing a profound personal experience, inspired pieces capturing an unforgettable moment, an already published article. The sky is the limit!

2. Gather the ones you can find and take a few moments to reflect upon each one by considering the following:

- Why is each piece of writing so important to you that you have kept it all this time?
- Who was your audience? How does that audience match others who will be reading it in the National Gallery? How might this writing connect with, inspire, persuade, or enlighten those who will read it?
- What side of you does the writing represent? Your creative side? A personal guiding principle? A need to record a moment in time that represents a universal experience? A hope to make a difference in the world?
- How might the writing serve as a model for others? For students wanting to see representations of real-life writing? For experienced writers to consider alternative ways of laying out ideas?

3. You might even want to take some time to write a reflection on the importance of a few of these writings.

4. Still can't decide? Perhaps you might give your top two to three choices to a friend, family member, or colleague to seek some advice, but keep in mind that the decision is ultimately up to you.

5. When you've finally made your selection and submitted it to the Gallery, keep the runners-up in a safe place because in the next several months it's likely that the Gallery will be open to more submissions.

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