

**Theories of Writing**  
**Final Project**

University of Denver

Erica Kugler

November 8, 2020

**Writing is as Simple as a Texting Interaction**

Hey Professor KT, it's Erica Kugler from your theories of writing course!

I am doing great! I just had a couple of questions pertaining to the course materials from the quarter. I have loved your course thus far!

So, this quarter in class we read and analyzed a lot of different authors, like Didion, Ong, and King, which all helped me better understand the main question of the course: what is writing?

After looking through all of my course materials, I came up with what I think writing is and wanted to know what you thought about it. Do you mind if I share with you my new definition of writing?

Probably not.

Challenge accepted.

Hi Erica, how are you?

Feel free to ask away Erica! I would love to answer any questions you may have.

Yes! That is great and definitely the point of the course!

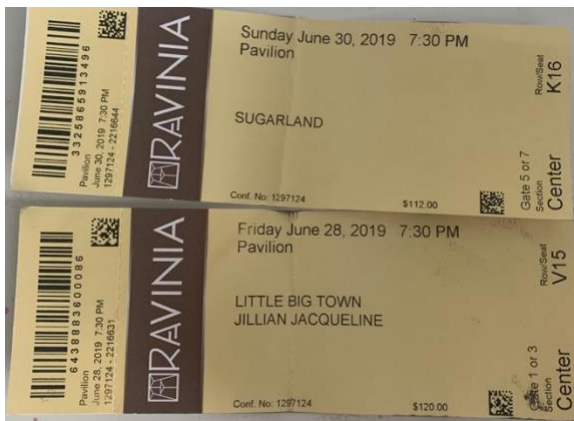
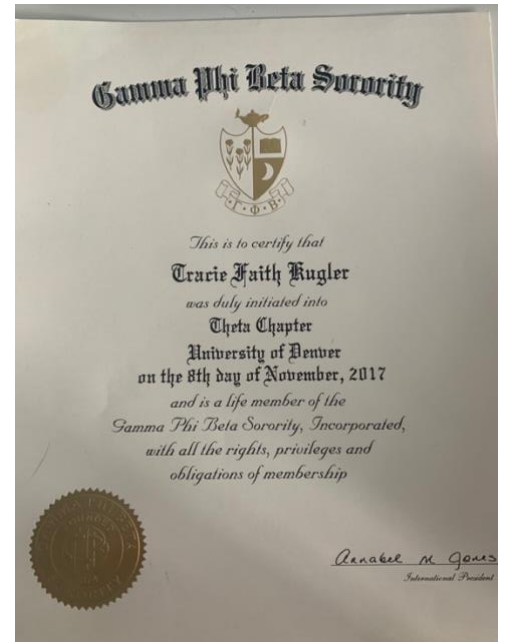
Oh Erica, think about what you are asking me. Do you think Ong would ask permission to share what he has learned?

How about this, instead of telling me, show me, like Didion would.

Great! I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

## Scrap Writing Influences

Hi, My name is  
Mia Winans. I  
put my car against  
the front left side  
of yours trying  
to turn around.  
There is a little  
scratch by the  
light.  
(530)414-3097  
Mia Winans



**Winnetka Police Department** **Driver's Copy** **Traffic Warning** **No: W 44759**

Date: 08/11/19 Time: 10:49 am Violation: 125 ILCS 5/11-100(b) speeding over posted limit

Location of Violation: N Bound/On: Green Bay Rd From: Grade St

Veh. Make: Subaru Veh Yr: 2015 Lic: E515957 Lic St: IL

Driver's Name: Kugler, Erica F. Gender: F DOB: 02/07/99

Address: 234 Maple Hill Rd City: Galena St: IL Zip: 60122

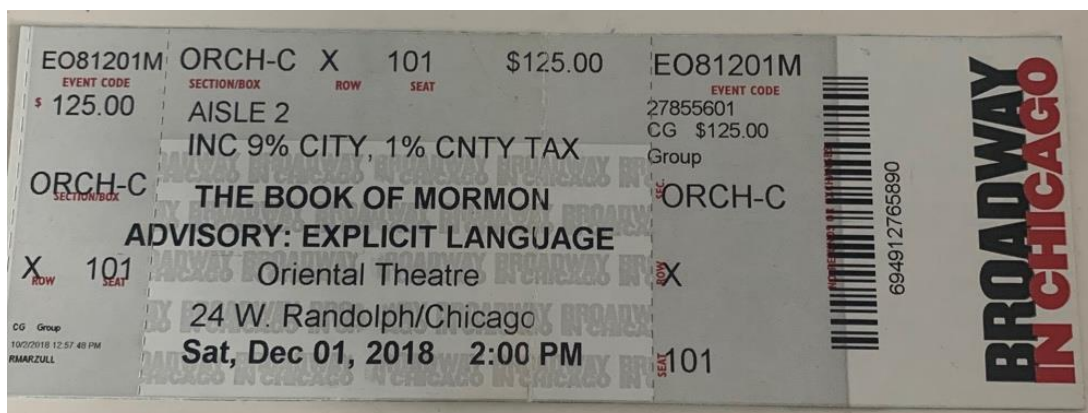
DLN: K240-2009-9638 DL St: IL Officer: Taylor Star # 421

**THIS IS A WARNING!**

There is no court appearance or fine involved. This warning is issued as a courtesy and to remind you to drive safely and obey all traffic laws.

**Please Drive Safely!** **Don't Dial and Drive!**

**Winnetka Police Department**  
410 Green Bay Road  
Winnetka IL 60093



### **Scrap writing**

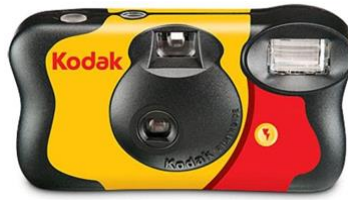
You may ask, Erica what do various ticket stubs, a traffic warning, a sorority initiation document with the wrong first name, and a note left on your car from someone who hit you have in common? Well from my point of view, a lot. All of these scraps may look not connected at first glance but what does connect all of these things is my unique story. To me, a story is something that one takes with them forever, but as one grows and has more lived experiences, the story can change and be altered.

All of these little scraps are part of the crazy story that I call my life. My life is full of different sub-stories and that is just what these scraps show. Between my traffic warning and a friend of a friend hitting my car, I felt sympathetic because I understood the stress of what a car incident feels like. This collaboration and interconnectedness of stories are what make me who I am today.

These individual experiences that come along with these scraps, also makes me the writer that I am today. Experience results in creativity and personal voice to come through to the surface. This multidimensional perspective that is given to a writer through experience is what makes writing so individualized and unique to each person that puts words on a piece of paper. This is what makes writing so unique. This is why every story matters.

Through each of these scraps, I could tell a story. Some stories may link to one and others, like the two different concerts at Ravinia Pavilion, and others have absolutely nothing to do with one and other. This is what makes the power of storytelling so strong. This is what keeps stagnant stories from being present within society. Stories are fluid and constantly changing and honestly, life would be impossible to live without these stories. Storytelling allows for creativity and collaboration to be present and turn into something so beautiful, it must be shared.

### **Your Very Own Writers Starter Pack**



Here, is your very own Writer's starter pack. This starter pack includes a variety of things to make you the best writer you can be. The first item this pack gives you is a journal. This journal is a safe space to allow the owner to do whatever they please. Write stories, doodle, create poetry. This space is for you. Having all of these different moments in one place allows for easy reflection which could develop into something greater down the line.

Secondly, we send all of our writers this disposable camera. This disposable camera comes with 20 pictures that the writer can get developed and use towards anything. Our suggestion is to use those photos and paste them into the journal to further develop stories or ideas that have been created in the journal. Photography is one of the many ways people can tell stories and what better way to do so than the usage of a disposable camera.

Last, but certainly not least, an item given in the writer's starter pack is an assortment of writing utensils. Giving you, the writer, the opportunity to explore and challenge your writing skills with different writing utensils will allow you, the writer to become so versatile and also allow you to find which utensils work best within your practice. Pens, pencils, markers, felt tips, highlighters, these are just some of the writing utensils that will be included.

The goal of this writer starter pack is not only to give you as the writer the materials you need to write, but also give you options and allow space for creativity. The product does not just stop here, this is just the starter pack. As you go further down the rabbit-hole of writing, we have more packs you can pick between as you grow throughout your writing experience.

### **Classic Writing as a Means of Poetry**

Freeform, total movement, no rest.

Lots of thoughts and little sleep.

Little sleep? Who am I kidding, no sleep.

Working off of the past present and future

Taking what you know and expanding knowledge.

Ever-changing modes of expression

Sharing with the world the importance of story.

The importance of sharing every story.

Every story matters.

Painting, murals, photographs, sculptures

Books, bedtime stories, movies, texting.

Writing.

...

Writing is much more than just words on a piece of paper.

Writing is creative.

Writing is bold.

Writing is working together to come up with something magical.

Writing is a special space that allows the creative juices to flow.

Writing is a universal form of expression.

Writing is in all of us.

### **My Writing Journey**

A long time ago, someone told me I would never be able to read, write, or learn another language. Now, as a senior at the University of Denver with a major, two minors, and working on a master's, and now knowing three languages, I can officially say you were wrong. Breaking down barriers and anything that gets in the way of what I want to become and simply walk the other way. Creativity. Passion. Hope. And writing. These four things are what kept me going and got me to where I am today.

Through my writing journey, I discovered so much about myself and who I am, and who I want to be. Through this journey, I found my voice. A voice that I use to help others who feel as though their voice is silenced. Through writing I have been able to stick up for what I believe in and create real change within the world I live in. Writing is such a powerful way to stand up for what one believes in.

I found this to be true as soon as I started high school. Whether it was love letters to my now ex-boyfriend, signing petitions to stand up for what I believe is right, or simply working on an assignment for class. I always found purpose while working with words. This purpose is very hard to come by, and yes, I understood it in high school, but it was not until college until I truly understood the power of my voice and what I can accomplish.

Our class journal space was where I truly understood on a broader sense the importance of writing. This safe space allowed me to explore more of what writing is. Writing to me is just that: a safe space to explore more of what I can be. My journey as a writer has not always been easy. Growing up, I was constantly told my pieces were not 'good enough'. This truly set me back in my writing journey. Now, understanding that I can do this and that I can be a creative, passionate writer with hopes and dreams is something I have loved discovering.

Furthermore, this quarter specifically, I have learned how therapeutic writing is for myself. Most of this quarter when I was stressed or overwhelmed, I would turn to my journal. My journal was a safe space, always and a constant throughout this quarter specifically. Whether it was me venting and storytelling about my shitty day or doodling as a therapeutic relief, my journal was always there. It was always something I could turn to. Looking back on the person I was and the person who I am today, is a person I would never have imagined in a million years. My journal helped me see this. My journal allowed me a couple hours each week to sit back and reflect. This allowed me to come back to my roots and my constants of creativity, passion, and hope, and that is what writing is to me.