

ENGL 106I (from Gigi Taylor)
Personal Essay Sheet

Considering the things we've talked about in your topic conference (and related things that may not have come up), fill in the table below. Using the cell definitions to guide you, make each cell as detailed as necessary to 1) document the important information you've got about your topic right now, and 2) provide enough information that your classmates get a basic understanding of what you're interested in and why.

Cell Definitions:

	People and events	Feelings and values	Conflicts or problems
Personal experience	What has happened to you or to people who are close to you? Who was involved and what happened?	How did you feel about or during each of those experiences (or how did the people close to you feel)? Why did they feel that way?	What are the issues that come up in these circumstances?
Context	Who are the people, groups, organizations, etc. associated with your topic (but perhaps not associated with you personally)? What is their role? In other words, what do they do or experience?	How do they feel about those experiences or activities? Why do they feel that way? Or why do they do the things they do? What motivates them?	What are the issues that come up? What are people working on, or what problems are they trying to solve?
<p>Questions What do you want to learn more about? Is there some aspect of your topic that you'd like to concentrate on? What do you think you <i>need</i> to learn more about so you understand things better?</p> <p>NB: Your questions should grow out of something in the cells above, but not all of the cells above will lead directly to your questions. In other words, when we see what you're curious about (by reading your questions), we should be able to understand why you're curious by looking at what else you've written. By documenting information in the cells, you're helping us (and yourself) make connections between the topic and your questions about it.</p>			

Example: This student’s topic is the Korean Animal Protection Association.

	People and events	Feelings and values	Conflicts and/or problems
Personal experience	<p>When I first moved here, my roommate asked me if I eat dogs. She said she’d heard that Koreans eat dogs. No matter how many times I explain, she still doesn’t really believe me.</p> <p>Just about everyone who isn’t Korean has asked me the same question.</p>	<p>I was upset. I don’t eat dogs, and I don’t want people to think that most Koreans do. They don’t. It bothers me that my culture is considered cruel just because <i>a few</i> people eat dogs.</p> <p>I’ve gotten used to it, so it doesn’t upset me, but I’m still tired of the misunderstanding, and I’m determined to dispel this myth.</p>	<p>The stereotype “all Koreans eat dogs” or “Koreans must be cruel” really bothers me. I want people to know that my culture is different.</p>
Context	<p>There are some Koreans who eat dogs, but they’re a minority.</p> <p>Other Koreans who don’t eat dog.</p> <p>Animal protection society tries to have laws passed against cruelty for many animals; they also try to educate people about animal protection issues.</p> <p>I don’t like it, but maybe they don’t care about the dog because they just see it as another kind of meat, like beef. Maybe they’re poor and can’t afford other kinds of meat.</p>	<p>Maybe they want to be kind to animals in general, or they think of dogs as pets instead of food.</p> <p>I don’t really know how they feel or why they do things.</p> <p>Maybe these two groups (dog eaters and non-dog eaters) think that the other group is wrong. There is an argument about what “traditional” Korean culture is.</p>	<p>It takes a lot of time and effort to gain public support and to pass animal protection legislation. It probably also costs a lot of money.</p>
<p>Questions</p> <p>Why do people have stereotypes about other cultures? Is this really a part of Korean traditional culture? What are the details about the Animal Protection Association? How long have they existed? Who are their members? What do they do? Are they successful? How can I prove to my roommate that Koreans really do care about animals?</p>			

YOUR TABLE:

	People and events	Feelings and values	Conflicts or problems
Personal experience			
Context			
Questions:			
<p>Now that you have several ideas and questions, please fill in the blanks here: I am studying _____ (name your topic), because I want to find out who/how/why _____ (ask your question), in order to understand how/why/what _____ (state the rationale for the for the question and the project).</p>			