Assignment #3

Life/Science Essay

3p. double-spaced (900 words)

This is a brief essay about the intersection of science and life: Tell the story of what hooked you on science, medicine or engineering. Or the story of your changing relationship with science. Or... Think back. Recall, conjure up, a moment, or scene, or project, book, teacher, summer expedition—an experience that you'd like to think about and shape in writing. Maybe it's a failure, or an insight, or an intriguing person or book that comes to mind. What happened? What did it feel like? What did it mean to you then? Where has it led you?

Tell that story, briefly but vividly: your goal is to make it interesting to readers who don't know you, to get them to see that science enriches lives (but you're not going to say that! You're not going to preach). Have fun with this.

Notes:

- There is no one right tone for this essay: it may be lyrical, bristling with ideas, humorous...whatever works for the story you want to tell.
- Because this is a very short essay, it will be most effective if you focus in on one experience rather than chronicling each class or book or internship or person that led to where you are now.
- Be careful to distinguish between you-then and you-the-writer-now when you describe feelings, thoughts, reactions, etc.

Workshopping for class

We'll workshop 1 essay as a full class. We'll also workshop everyone's essay in small groups.

- Print 3-4 copies of your essay and bring them to class.
- We will not revise this essay, but I'll give you a revision assignment, in which you'll annotate your 1st draft and describe how you would approach revision.

[See Assignment #4 for directions for responding to group members online.]

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