

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ at least two typed pages long in narrative form.

### Put Your Heart on the Page

Too many writers avoid their own strongest feelings because they are afraid of them, or because they are afraid of being sentimental. Yet these are the very things that will make beginning work ring true and affect us. Your stories have to matter to you the writer before they can matter to the reader; your story has to affect you, before it can affect us. William Kitredge says, "If you are not risking sentimentality, you are not close to your inner self."

### THE EXERCISE

Write down an early childhood event that made you cry or terrified you, or that made you weak with shame or triumphant with revenge. Then write a story about that event. Take us back to those traumatic times, relive them for us through your story in such a way so as to make your experience ours.

### THE OBJECTIVE

To learn to identify events in your life that are still capable of making you laugh and cry. If you can capture these emotions and put them on paper, chances are you will also make your readers laugh and cry as well.

### Tips to a Great Narrative:

1. Have a great opening! How? Set the scene by describing the setting or try starting out your narrative with dialogue.
2. Remember that a narrative has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
3. Remember to indent when there is a new person speaking, a new place introduced, a new period of time, a new plot event, or a new point of view.
4. A great narrative has reactions and feeling throughout the piece.
5. Proofread your paper for spelling and grammar errors! We just learned about fragments, run-ons, and comma splices. So what does that mean? That means that that we will not write with run-ons, fragments, or comma splice.