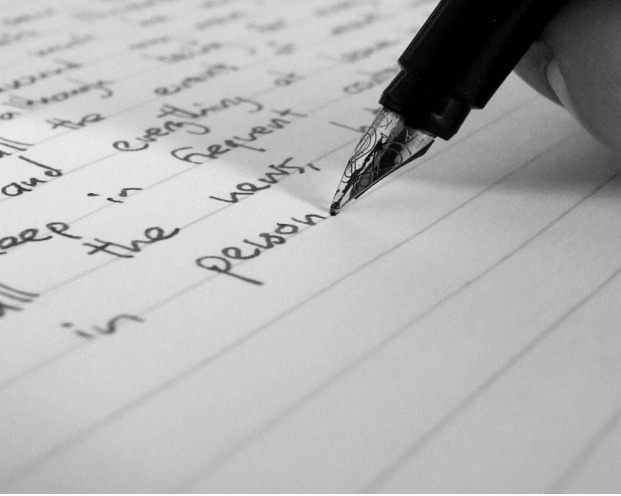


The

Writer's

Sandbox

Conventions, Craft, and Versatility in
Different Writing Spheres



“Sandbox” is a metaphor!

Ever see a kid play in a sandbox? There are lots of different tools and toys to check out. Some things are on the surface, and others are buried. Kids play, and dig, and dump sand everywhere.



What does this have to do with writing?

It's **messy**.

First **attempts** don't always yield **success**.

Different **tasks** need different **tools**.

There are certain **end results** that everyone knows (sandcastles, burying your BFF, making sand mud), but **no real instruction booklet** on exactly how to do it.

Sand can be **endlessly** assembled, rearranged, & refined.

I'm not a writer... or am I?

Anyone can write well. You just need to know...

1. **WHAT** it is that you're writing
2. **WHY** you're writing it
3. **WHO** you're writing it for

Everything else will follow. The **answers** to those three questions may **change the rules** for writing well, so you need to be **open-minded** and willing to **build, destroy, and re-build.**

(Much like a kid. In a sandbox.)

What will we be doing in class?

- Reading/annotating **mentor texts**
- Experimenting with multiple “**starts**” of different drafts
- Our process of “letting go” into our own style:

Imitation -> Inspiration -> Improvisation

We will learn to adapt our writing to different real-life spheres.

PERSONAL

(for myself and my family)

PROFESSIONAL

(for my future, education, and career)

PUBLIC

(for my community, for the world)

Notebooks Only Zone!

For most of our practice assignments, you'll be working on paper.

Get used to this idea now.



-**Real writing is ...messy!**

-**Becoming adaptable** instead of following **a checklist**

-Preparing for **unknown writing tasks** in life ahead

-Learning the huge value of **revision**

-Remembering that **WORDS are POWER!**



What will our assessment be?

You will be creating a 3-piece **writing portfolio** during this unit that will ultimately include three formal pieces: a **flash memoir**, an **application statement**, and an **advocacy piece**.

This collection will showcase your learning.

...but **don't worry**
about that right now.

Focus on the sandbox.
Think of your first
attempts as **play,**
experimentation!

We are here to guide
you.



GETTING STARTED: JUST WRITE!

- Write **every single memory you have about school lunches.**
- If you get stuck, **ZOOM IN** on something **specific** in your memory.
- Still stuck? **Write about carrot sticks.**