

# Generating Ideas for Paper #1: Expressive Writing

*Consider some of the options below and brainstorm a list of possible topics that might be interesting for you personally to write about.*

## **OPEN LETTER**

- Is there anything on campus you think should be changed? Imagine writing to a WCU official who can make this change. What would you want to say?
- Is there something you would like to say, some kind of statement you want to make, to your parents, teachers, friends, community, nation, future self, future spouse, future children? (Who am I leaving out?) Is there something important you would like to say to the president, George W. Bush? Any other political or religious leaders?
- Is there something going on in the world right now, a social issue or a social cause, that you have strong opinions about? Imagine writing an open letter to the public expressing your views—or writing a letter of appeal to raise consciousness or support. What would you write about?
- Is there a commercial or advertisement running currently that really ticks you off? Imagine writing to the company—what do you want to say?
- Do you want to reach out to the younger generation? What kind of advice do you have? What experiences could you share?

## **MEMOIR**

Create a mindmap of all the different ways you could think about identity (you can refer to the handout I distributed in class a week or so ago). Brainstorm some interesting stories that go along with these definitions. For example, if family is one significant part of the way you think about identity, think about the interesting stories behind your relationships.

Use p. 171-172 in *The Call to Write* to help you generate memories that might serve as good subjects for a memoir essay.

## **RESPONSE TO LITERATURE**

What are some significant literary works that you could respond to? Brainstorm a list of your favorite books, movies, songs, etc., and see whether any might provide a springboard for you to discuss your explore your feelings or share your personal experiences.