

Assignment I: Narrative/Essay Writing

(suggested time—70 minutes)

Assignment

Write either a narrative or an essay about **the importance of self-respect in shaping a person’s character**. You may wish to write about yourself or other people, real or fictional. You may set your writing in the past, present, or future.

Ideas

The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider the knowledge and experience you have gained from reading, listening, viewing, discussing, thinking, or imagining.

**I never can hide myself from me,
I see what others may never see,
I know what others may never know,
I never can fool myself—and so,
Whatever happens, I want to be
Self-respecting and conscience free.**
—from “Myself”



Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to prove myself. With the money I make from working, I will be able to buy the new bike I want.

**Fame is what you have taken,
Character’s what you give:
When to this truth you waken,
Then you begin to live!**
—from “Improvisations”



I think the best way to complete this project is to ensure that each one of us contributes equally to getting this project done. That way we can all share the success of our group.



Guest, Edgar A. “Myself.” In *Collected Verse of Edgar A. Guest*. 7th ed. Chicago: The Reilly & Lee Co., 1943.
Taylor, Bayard. *The Poetical Works of Bayard Taylor*. Household Edition. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1890.

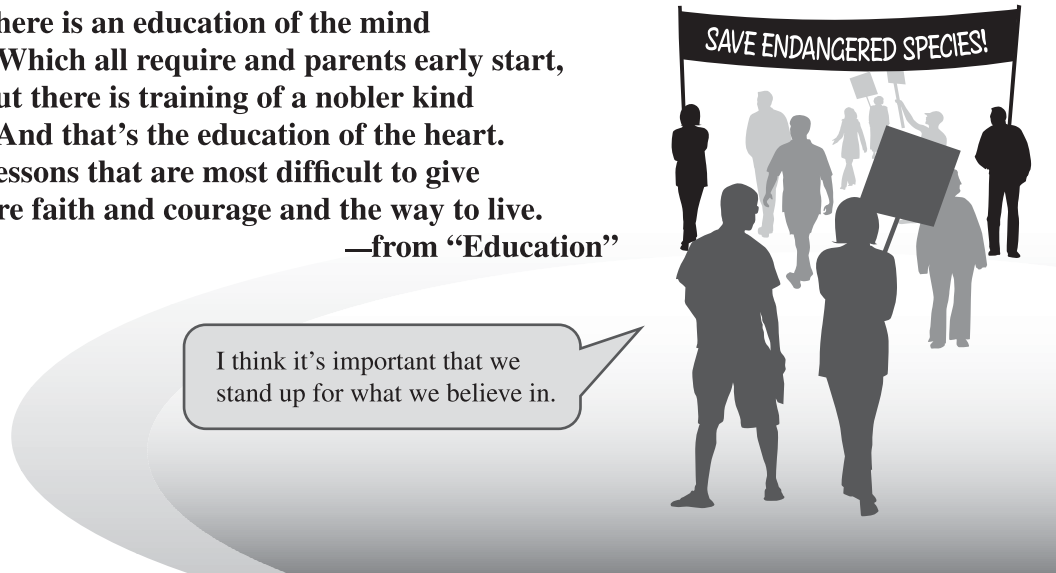
Don't say things. What you *are* stands over you the while, and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.

—from *Letters and Social Aims*



**There is an education of the mind
Which all require and parents early start,
But there is training of a nobler kind
And that's the education of the heart.
Lessons that are most difficult to give
Are faith and courage and the way to live.**

—from "Education"



Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Letters and Social Aims*. The Complete Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, vol. 8, Centenary Edition. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1904.
Guest, Edgar A. "Education." In *Collected Verse of Edgar A. Guest*. 7th ed. Chicago: The Reilly & Lee Co., 1943.

When writing, **be sure to**

- **consider** your **audience**
- **focus** on your **purpose** and **point of view**
- **organize** your **thoughts** appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- **use vocabulary** that is interesting and effective
- **edit** your **work** directly on your writing
- **budget** your **time**