

Assignment I: Narrative/Essay Writing

(suggested time—70 minutes)

Assignment

Write either a narrative or an essay about **the importance of overcoming obstacles in life**. 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

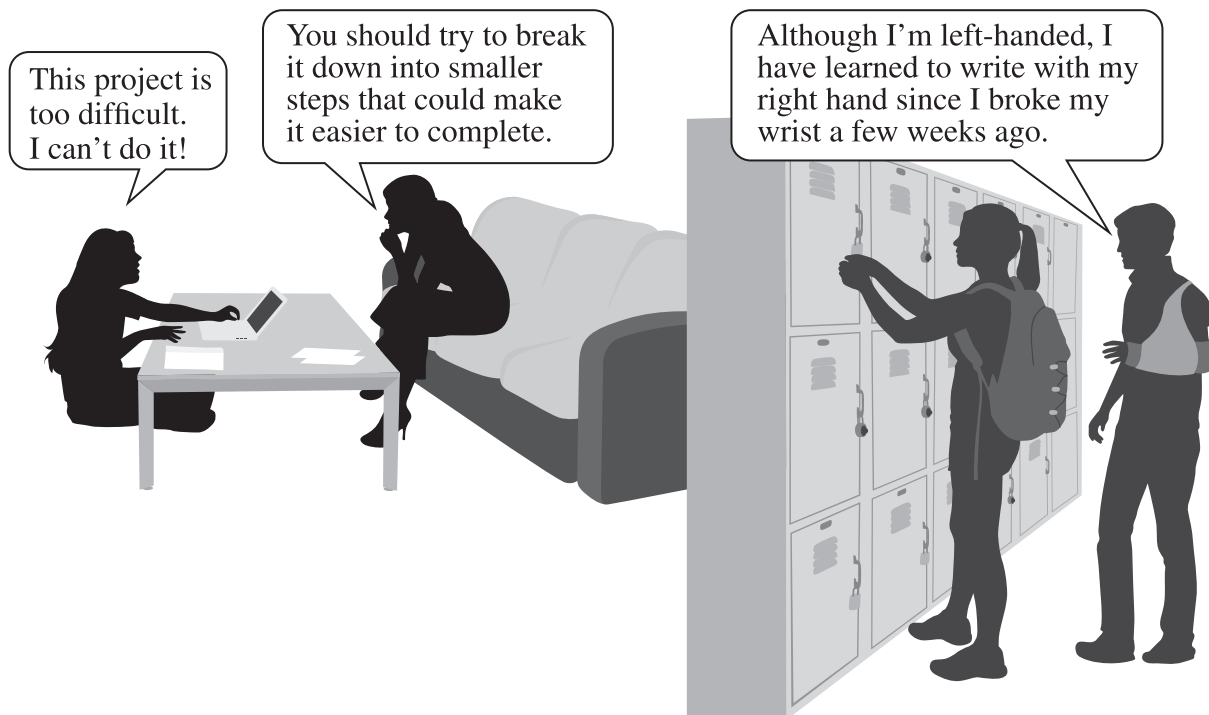
The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider the knowledge and experience you have gained from reading, listening, viewing, discussing, thinking, or imagining.

Another source of greatness is difficulty. When any work seems to have required immense force and labour to effect it, the idea is grand.

—*Edmund Burke*

Nothing upon earth is without its difficulties! It is the secret impulse within, it is the love and the delight we feel, that help us to conquer obstacles, to clear out new paths, and to overleap the bounds of that narrow circle in which others poorly toil.

—*Johann Goethe*



Burke, Edmund. "Difficulty." In *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful: With an Introductory Discourse Concerning Taste, and Several Other Additions*. London: Printed for A. Robertson & Co., 1824.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship and Travels*. New York: A. L. Burt, 1839.

First by right comes the true explorer, for whom travel is not a means, but an end in itself. [...] For him the life of the trail, the triumph over obstacles, the thrill of danger, are things in themselves desirable and beyond price; his reward lies not in the attainment, but in the quest.

—*Roland Dixon*

I believe that difficulties are more important to the human mind than what we call assistances. Work we all must, if we mean to bring out and perfect our nature. Even if we do not work with the hands, we must undergo equivalent toil in some other direction. No business or study which does not present obstacles, tasking to the full the intellect and the will, is worthy of a man.

—*William Channing*

We lost our first game but, if we practise and work together as a team, we will win the next one!



When I moved to Canada, I had to learn English in order to get a job. Hard work and determination helped me gain the skills I needed to be successful.



Dixon, Roland Burrage. "Voyages and Travel: General Introduction." In *Lectures on the Harvard Classics*. Edited by William Allan Neilson. The Harvard Classics. New York: P. F. Collier & Son, 1914.

Channing, William Ellery. "On the Elevation of the Laboring Classes." In *The Works of William E. Channing*. New and Complete Edition, Rearranged. Boston: American Unitarian Association, 1886.

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**