

**Essay Project #2  
Projecting Identity**

In Seeing and Writing 3, we studied Judith Ortiz Cofer’s essay, “The Story of My Body.” We looked at the structure of the essay and its effectiveness in conveying her message. We also studied other photographs and essays exploring how people carve out or reveal identity. Once again, it’s time to synthesize, that is, to bring together in a meaningful way, your ideas about identity.

**Your assignment is to write an essay using Cofer’s essay as a model in which you write a carefully constructed story of your own body or identity. An alternative topic is to use Cofer’s essay as a model in which you write a carefully constructed story of your education of some topic or area.**

Although you are not required to use quotations in this assignment, your essay should reflect the depth of thinking we have been doing in this class on the topic of projecting identity. Reflect on the assignments we’ve read and discussed:

Judith Ortiz Cofer, “The Story of My Body,” p. 343  
Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl “ p 340  
Marjane Satrapi, “The Veil,” p. 353 and “Introduction,” p. 361  
Annie Dillard, “How to Live,” p. 427  
Donnell Alexander, “Cool Like Me,” p. 440  
Paul Fussell, “A Touchy Subject,” p. 478  
Alissa Quart, Branded, pages 77-109

**Rhetorical Considerations**

**Audience:** the teacher, the class, college students and teachers in general. Since you will be using personal experience and anecdotes, your subject matter will be inherently interesting to those in our class because we like you and want to get to know you, but your true audience are those “beyond” the walls of the classroom. Think of a fellow student on the Quad picking up your essay. Will it achieve its purpose with that student?

**Purpose:** to convey an insight about the shaping of identity in general, using yourself as an example. Your purpose will be similar to Ortiz’s purpose: to show readers through detail and explanation what it is like to walk in someone else’s shoes and lead the reader to understand society as a whole a little better. The depth and thoughtfulness of your ideas will be a major factor in your grade, along with the success of your details, examples, and anecdotes.

**Voice:** appropriate to your purpose. Select a voice or tone that helps you convey your insights.

**Requirements:**  
Your essay should be 750-1250 words (3-5 pages typed, double-spaced, 12 pt font).

Rough draft with four copies for a total of five DUE \_\_\_\_\_

Final revised copy and the work leading up to the final copy in a manila folder DUE \_\_\_\_\_