

## “The Best Ever” Assignment (Not)

Some people are so unique—so miserable, so kind, so generous, so nasty, so rude, so intelligent, so compassionate, so *unforgettable*—that they deserve to become immortal. In your prewriting for this assignment, create several categories and a list of candidates for each category (The Best Teacher Ever or The Cruellest Person I Have Ever Known). Then choose one category and one candidate and begin listing all the reasons this person defines the category.

Next identify which of these reasons take priority over the others and arrange those reasons in order from least to most convincing (persuasion). Then find at least one other way to organize (narration, description, definition, comparison-contrast. . .) and create a second writing plan.

Which method of organization do you prefer? To find out, choose one method and write a complete timed draft (tentative thesis, body, conclusion) of your essay in a blue book. Be sure to limit your time (no more than 90 minutes) and write the time you begin and end on the outside of your blue book. In this draft be sure to give your readers a profile of the person that dramatizes (shows) a piece of that person’s life. Give your readers a clear sense of the person’s physical appearance (coloration, build, dress), speech (favorite gestures and body language, favorite expressions), and actions. What is the dominant impression this person creates in the minds of others? Show your readers how you interact(ed) with the person and what you have learned from her or him.

After you have completed your first draft in your bluebook, take a break for an hour (or maybe a whole day). Then use your draft to make a more formal outline of your essay in which you make sure your paragraphs limit themselves to one topic and contain plenty of supporting material (examples, illustrations, etc) for each of your topic sentences. (Think of these as mini thesis sentences.) Write a second, more fully-developed draft of at least five double-spaced typewritten pages. Take another break. This time, read your essay aloud at least once—or better yet, have someone else read it aloud to you. Fix any problem sentences. Then bring it to class formatted in MLA style and ready to submit for peer reviews and a grade.