

Sample Syllabus: BEFORE Graphic Representation

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the readings listed below come from 50 Essays. Readings marked in italics and with an (x) will be provided via Telesis (Files). You should download and print the reading, and bring it to class on the day it is due..

I. Hearing Your Voice: The Writing/Reading “I”

“Strong voice is conversational: the writer leaves us with a sense that we are listening to a skilled raconteur rather than passing our eyes over ink on paper.”

~ Constance Hale

“She opened her mouth and a voice came out that wasn’t a whisper but wasn’t a proper voice either....When it was my turn, the same voice came out, a crippled animal running on broken legs.”

~ Maxine Hong Kingston

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| Jan 17 Wed  | Introductions; Lamott, “Polaroids” (x); Kingston, “Tongue Tied” (x)               |
| Jan. 22 Mon | Mairs, “On Being a Cripple”; Vowell, “Shooting Dad”; Sedaris – “Old Faithful” (x) |
| Jan. 24 Wed | Tan, “Mother Tongue”; Alexie, “The Joy of Reading and Writing....”                |
| Jan. 29 Mon | Didion, “On Keeping a Notebook”<br><b>Essay 1 Due</b>                             |

### II. Hearing Others’ Voices: The Cultural “I”

*“I was unable to hear my own sounds....”*

~Richard Rodriguez

*“...we all speak in many voices, no one of which is more or less authentic or real.”*

~Joseph M. Williams

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| Jan 31 Wed | Baldwin, “Notes of a Native Son”; Liu, “Notes of a Native Speaker” |
| Feb 5 Mon | Rodriguez, “Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” |
| Feb 7 Wed | Anzaldua, “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” |
| Feb 12 Mon | Walker – “In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens” (x); Cofer, “The Myth of the Latin Woman....” |
| Feb 14 Wed | In-class Workshop Essay 2 Draft Due |
| Feb 19 Mon | Kingston, “No Name Woman” Essay 2 Due |

III. Speaking for Others: The Representative “I”

“She speaks for greater numbers than I possibly can.”

~Bharati Mukherjee

“You must not tell anyone . . . what I am about to tell you.”

~ Maxine Hong Kingston

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| Feb 21 Wed | Rodriguez, “The Triad of Alexis De Tocqueville” (x); Mukherjee, “Two Ways to Belong in America” |
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| Feb 26 Mon | Eighner, “On Dumpster Diving”; Ascher, “On Compassion” |
| Feb 28 Wed | Ehrenreich, “Serving in Florida”                       |
| Mar 5 Mon  | In-class Workshop<br><b>Essay 3 Draft Due</b>          |

### IV. Adding Your Voice to Cultural Conversations: The Public “I”

“... the common denominator of all we see is always,  
transparently, shamelessly, the implacable I.”

~ Joan Didion

“Ethnic identity is twin skin to linguistic identity—  
I am my language. . . . I will have my voice.”

~Gloria Anzaldúa

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| Mar 7 Wed | Hearne, “What’s Wrong with Animal Rights?”; Singer, “Animal Liberation” Essay 3 Due |
| Mar 12 Mon & Mar 14 Wed | Spring Break Spring Break |
| Mar 19 Mon | <i>Didion, “Sentimental Narratives” (x); Bordo, “Never Just Pictures”</i> |
| Mar 21 Wed | Angier, “Men, Women, Sex, and Darwin”; Gould, “Women’s Brains” |
| Mar 26 Mon | <i>Coontz, “Blaming the Family for Economic Decline” (x); Kozol, “The Human Cost of an Illiterate Society” (x); Nocton, “Harvest of Gold, Harvest of Shame” (x).</i> |
| Mar 28 Wed | Zuckerman, “Rich Man, Poor Man” (x) Assessment Essay – in class |
| Apr 2 Mon | In-class Workshops Essay 4 Draft Due |

V. Adding Your Voice to Disciplinary Discourse: The Professional “I”

“...academic writing is no longer the linguistic
equivalent of a black-tie affair.”

~Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

“Voice usually gets squeezed out of ... prose by the
Official Style.”

~ Richard A. Lanham

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| Apr 4 Wed  | Packet of materials: <i>Fabes et al., Ballard, Lull, Gorn and Goldberg</i> (x)<br><b>Essay 4 Due</b>                                                                                                 |
| Apr 9 Mon  | Pratt, “Arts of the Contact Zone”<br><b>Bring to class:</b> 1 scholarly article from field, 1 paper you wrote for your field                                                                         |
| Apr 11 Wed | Williams – “And We Are Not Married” (x)                                                                                                                                                              |
| Apr 16 Mon | Allen, “The Rhetorical Situation of the Scientific Paper and the ‘Appearance’ of Objectivity” (x)                                                                                                    |
| Apr 18 Wed | <b>Mini-Workshop: Part I (draft)</b><br><b>Bring to class:</b> all of the essays you’ve written so far this semester, including end-comment sheets. (If you’ve written revisions, bring those, too.) |

## Sample Syllabus: BEFORE Graphic Representation

Apr 23 Mon      **Mini-Workshop: Part II (draft)**  
*Fabnestock & Secor, "Choosing a Voice" (x)*

### **VI. Seeing Your Voice: The Reading / Writing "I"**

*"Writing is a social act, even though it feels in the doing  
like a private one."*

*~Dona Hickey*

*"The truth of your experience can only come through  
in your own voice."*

*~Ann Lamott*

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Apr 25 Wed **Workshops: Part III (draft)**
Conclusions, Connections, and Contemplations

May 2 Wed **Essay 5 and Final Meta-Commentary Due**
*(Essays should be put in my mailbox, in Duncker Hall, no later than **noon**.)*