Assignment #2 (Part 1)

Where do We Find Our Stories?

**Directions:** If we are going to try and find stories from our partners’ lives, it is a good idea to start looking at some of our own stories. Below you find a list of 20 questions. Choose two write about each one. Be honest and prepared to share some of your writing with your West/Fairmont partner. Try to find specific examples from your own life to enhance your writing.

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.” --Aristotle

- Write about your favorite activities and hobbies as a child. Do you want to return to them in adulthood? How can you make that happen?
- Write about the self-doubts that keep returning.
- Write about a dream that keeps recurring.
- Write about what brings you comfort and calm.
- Write the truest sentence that you know.
- Write about the words you’d tell your 18-year-old self or your 10-year-old self.
- Write about what you see in the mirror.
- Write about the work you love.
- Write about the words you need to hear.
- Write what you’re curious about. What would you like to learn? What would you like to discover or rediscover?
- Write about the tastes, scents and surroundings that you’re hungry for.
- Write about your favorite season. Write the details that you love. Write about why that season captures you.
- Write about what you’d make with your hands, if only you had the skills.
- Write about your favorite way to celebrate.
- Write about your favorite jokes.
- Write about a big moment in your life.
- Write about what you don’t know about yourself. How can you discover it?
- Write about what you’d like to be remembered for.

Assignment #2 (Part 2): Everyone Has a Story

In "Everybody Has a Story," every two weeks someone threw a dart at a map of America. CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman then went wherever it stuck, flipped through the local phone book, and picked a name at random. He then did a story on someone at that house.

Directions: Sometimes a story can be something small, something we might not even see as significant, but others might notice. Sometimes you have to ask a lot of questions to find someone’s story. As you watch each of the two video clips, think about what makes each story important and unique. In your notebook, write the title of each clip and write down what makes each story important and unique.

Personal WAGS: What is your unique story?

Directions: We’re going to use the WAGS approach to find out more about our partners. Remember, WAGS is a method used to develop compelling characters for a narrative text, however, we will be using it to help us find our partner’s story. In your notebook, complete the WAGS chart for yourself. You’ll be sharing this with your partner at your next meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>WORLD of the character: Where does this character spend a lot of time? How does that world affect the character and how does the character affect that world?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>ACTION of the character: What does the character do during a regular day? (routine actions) What does the character do in pursuit of the goal shown in this story? (exceptional actions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>GOAL of the character: What does the character want? What does the character need? (this is often different from the character’s goal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>STAKES of the goal to the character: What bad thing does the character think will happen if the goal is not reached? What makes the goal worth pursuing and grappling with the obstacles and confrontations put in the way of attaining that goal?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>