**The Lyric Essay Assignment**

The lyric essay is similar to the personal essay in that it also deals with a topic that affects the reader. However, the lyric essay relies heavily on descriptions and imagery. Lyrical suggests something poetic, musical, or flowing (in a sense). This type of piece uses a heavily descriptive, flowing tone in order to tell a story.

The lyric essay may use literary elements of fiction, but tends to lean more toward poetry express an idea.  The writer of the literary essay constructs images with sensory details and uses poetic techniques such as alliteration and assonance to emphasize rhythm and language. The lyrical essay combines both prose and poetry, sometimes found objects of writing to create the lyrical essay. The essay can be created with fragments of details, each separated with white space, asterisk, or number. The writer can present questions and rely on the reader to provide the answers. Ultimately, the lyrical essay encourages the reader to ponder and meditate while reading the essay.

This means the lyric essay may not easily fit into the category of "grounded" writing of a narrative—a constructed and followable story. The lyric essay just wants to play. Larger issues can be addressed, are often addressed, in the lyric, but subserviently so. Don't take it too seriously; look for the playfulness in it; hear the music and dance.

The first line(s) of a lyric essay, in particular, should surprise the reader with its language or new idea or twist of thought, as should points between beginning and end. But of course this should be true of any genre.

**Assignment:**

Write a lyric essay of 500-1000 words that is based on true, personal experience. Pay close attention to:

1. Tone. A friendly and conversational tone.
2. Word choice. Fresh and original, short rather than long, familiar instead of unfamiliar words.
3. Lyrical language. Use of alliteration and assonance and rhythm.
4. Sentence variety. Use of a variety of sentence patterns, such as the balanced sentence, the cumulative sentence, and the periodic sentence.
5. Intimate POV. Use of first person POV and sharing of personal thoughts and feelings and reflections.

**Formatting Considerations**:

Title your essay

Double space

Include word count in your heading on page 1

Include last name, title, and page number on all pages