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## Advanced Composition

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### Monday, Sept. 15, 2008

- In *The Norton Reader*, read:
  - “Once More to the Lake,” by E.B. White (pages 52–57)
  - “University Days,” by James Thurber (pages 257–261)

Read slowly, paying close attention to language. Make a note of the details you find particularly effective.

Read through the questions that follow each selection. You don’t need to write down any answers, but you should come prepared to discuss them in class.

Learn something about the authors and the original publications (the publications where the selections were first published) before you come to class.

- Begin working on your **first writing assignment**, the memoir due on Sept. 22. This assignment should be 2–3 double-spaced pages. You may write about your mother or some other relative (or friend) you know very well. Begin by brainstorming about the person: Describe their personality, their defining characteristics. List their favorite hobbies and pastimes. Does the person have a favorite piece of advice, quotation, Scripture verse, book, movie, song, etc. that reveals something about who they are? What favorite stories do you have about this person?

Make sure your memoir is very focused, that each detail works to help communicate who the person is. Don’t tell us everything about the person; choose details carefully. Refrain from idealizing your subject; include their flaws, as well as their admirable qualities. Aim to make your memoir creative and interesting, like the examples we read this past week.

**Bring a first draft with you to class this week.** To receive full credit, your draft must be (at least) one page of “finished” writing, followed by notes for how you imagine the rest of the assignment will take shape. (A full 2–3 page draft would also be acceptable.)

- Read pages 5–15 of chapter 1 in *Rhetorical Grammar*. Skip all exercises.