

# the radical write

## teacher's manual

chapter 13  
assignment | 4

### **Write like you think and talk. Trust the sound of your own voice.**

If you are not motivated to write well, you won't. If you're not willing to work hard, to spill your guts to total strangers, then your writing will never amount to much. But if take ownership of your writing, great things can happen.

It's time to try your hand at writing an opinion column. Read several excellent columns first. Read Hanna Ricketson's column on pages 197-198. It is amazing.

Write an opinion column. Your column should use many of the techniques and devices discussed so far this semester. It should be visual. It should appeal to the senses and emotions. It should be tight, focused and muscular. It should sound like you.

- Pay attention to tone: bombastic, calm, acerbic.
- Pay attention to the voice: ironic, melancholy, sarcastic, angry.
- Pay attention to flow: use of quotes, parallel sentence structure, repetition, simile, description, alliteration, dialogue.
- Most importantly, tell readers something they didn't already know or could not figure out themselves. Show that you're willing to spill your guts to total strangers.
- Your column should deal with one or more of the following themes:
  - winning and losing
  - all in the family
  - bullies
  - the road less traveled
  - my worst moment