

# the radical write

## teacher's manual

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chapter 14  
assignment | 2

### Write a personality profile.

This final assignment is the culmination of all you've learned in the course this semester. It's a personality profile. You should be able (and thrilled) to publish this profile in your student publication.

It does not matter who you write about. Find someone who has an interesting story, who has overcome a major obstacle, who has completed or is attempting to complete a long journey. Find a person whose story resonates with readers, someone whose story can teach me something about myself. In *Writing for Story*, Jon Franklin notes that good stories center on a complication and a resolution.

Franklin writes, "To be of literary value, a complication must be not only basic but also significant to the human condition. A resolution is simply any change in the character or situation that resolves the complication. The resolution, like the complication, can be either physical or psychological, external or internal. The cancer patient's problem can be solved externally, by the surgeon who cuts out the tumor and the radiologist who kills the remaining malignant cells. Or it can be solved internally, as the character makes peace with himself and accepts the approach of death. Either resolution reduces anxiety which is to say tension, and is therefore a resolution. A resolution, by definition, destroys tension."

Thus, you should write your profile about a real person who is confronted with a significant problem, who struggles to solve the problem, who ultimately succeeds and, in doing so, becomes a different human being.

Again, the profile should be descriptive. It must have flow smoothly and logically. It should be built on powerful direct quotes. It should contain at least one anecdote. It must be error-free: spelling, style, grammar.