

Introduction Letter to Classmates – Examples from English Composition 2
Online Introduction to Literature and Writing About Literature

Date: Sat Jan 11 2003

Author: David M.

Subject: Introducing David M.

Hello classmates,

My name is David M. however, most people just call me "Mitch". **I am currently on active duty in the United States Navy and have been for the past nine years. Due to my fluctuating schedule in the Navy I was forced to take the lion's share of classes via the online method. Last semester I held a 4.0 grade point average and received the honor of the presidents list and an invitation to join the Tidewater Community College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (the International Honors Society).** English 112 happens to be one of the ticket punches I need for graduation, hence the reason I am here. I am slated to graduate from Tidewater Community College at the end of this semester with my Associates in Science, given all things proceed as planned. Upon completion of my time at Tidewater Community College I intend on transferring to Old Dominion University to obtain a Bachelors in Science with a chemistry major and a forensic science minor. My long range educational goal is to achieve a master's degree in chemistry however, right now I am focusing on the short term. You maybe wondering "why does a sailor need this type of education", well I do not intend to remain apart of the Naval organization for much longer. I am **attempting to get an entry level position working with federal law enforcement agencies** such as Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), United States Secret Service (USSS), and United States Customs agency (USC). Once I have my foot in the door at one of those agencies I can continue my education to reach my career goal, which is to become a Forensic Scientist.

When I have time in between school and my naval duties I am an avid outdoorsman. I enjoy most anything that deals in some way with nature. My favorite things to do are hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. I also use to ride bulls in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) and the International professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) for five years. I chose to give up my eight second adrenaline rush four years ago when my daughter was born. Giving up bull riding is a decision I do not regret, I figure it is more important to give her a fully functioning father than it is for me to get a dangerous thrill ride. I am not much of a television watcher or even a computer person, the only reason I own a computer is so I can continue my education given the circumstances.

I will be the first to admit that even though English core classes are required I desperately need them. I haven't really done much in the way of writing since I was in High school, ten years ago. I had taken a few creative writing classes my last few years in high school but I never applied myself to it. Shortly after high school I **joined the Navy and any semblance of grammar or proper writing I had went right out the window.** So for the last nine years I have written thousands of memos and messages in what has come to be known as "**navyeese**" (a form of writing that follows no grammatical law or logical order). Most of the reading that I have done other than what has been required in college has been Navy technical manuals, which all

happen to be written in the same form of "navyese". Majority of the manuals that I read and the correspondence I initiate are of a classified nature so I must do it in a secure room on my ship, which by the way is never the most conducive to independent thought or retention. To tell the truth **I can not remember the last time I read anything for pleasure other than the occasional article in a hunting magazine. As far as my tastes in literature go, I am not sure I have one. I have always enjoyed the writings of Edger Allen Poe However, when I read I prefer to read factual information such as biographies or accounts of history.** I am looking forward to our future assignment and exposure to various types of literature to broaden my horizons and I wish all of you well and good luck with your course load.

Respectfully,
David M.

Date: Mon Jan 13 2003
Author: Rachel D.
Subject: Introducing Rachel D.

Dear ENG 112:

My Name is Rachel D. and I currently reside in Ridgeley, West Virginia. I plan to transfer to a university in the fall and pursue a bachelor's degree in Art Education. After graduation, my plans are to teach art in public schools at the high school or middle school level. Every student who wishes to obtain a degree must take ENG 111 and ENG 112, I am just taking this class as a junior rather than a freshmen. I temporarily living in West Virginia and unable to attend any class on campus, but wish to finish my classes at Tidewater Community College. Before my education at Tidewater, I attended Roanoke Bible College in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where I received an associate degree in Biblical Studies. This will be my last semester at community college because I will have taken all the classes necessary to transfer to a university.

During my time at Roanoke Bible College, I learned more than just facts about the Bible; I learned how to be independent. I was able to live with and surround myself with people who shared the same morals and values. During this time, I served as class president both years and participated in the collegiate sports, volleyball and basketball. Taking part in a team and serving as a leader helped me to value friendships and hard work. I would not be the person I am today, had it not been for those experiences.

During my early years of elementary school, I remember the importance my teachers placed on being an advanced reader. Many of my assignments even before I could read on my own, was to have my parents read and for me to draw a picture to represent my opinion of the story. Once I reached about fifth grade, I was already trying to read novels with as many 300 or 400 pages long. My reward for getting my homework and chores done on time was to be able to read before I went to bed, and even to this day, I enjoy lying in bed and reading a book of choice. As a kid, I was not into writing, I usually expressed my self through conversation or art.

Roanoke Bible College places great emphasis on reading, whether it was the Bible, commentaries, bibliographies, or merely an author's opinion on certain topics. Reading is a way to learn about almost everything, and you can experience almost every viewpoint with different authors. If books do not catch my attention within the first few chapters, I am not likely to finish. I read the Bible daily and just recently, I have started to keep a journal. With this daily log, I can express anything on my mind and by writing in on paper helps me to sort through certain feelings and emotions.

The literature I enjoy reading is mainly Christian authors. Books, which can interest and excite me to be a better listener, encourager, and friend, are my favorite. I read certain classics repetitively, such as The Giver, Jane Eyre, and children's book by C.S. Lewis. I write best when I am alone and concentrating on what I am doing. Lots of people or distractions cause me not to be able to focus on my words and thought pattern. Fortunately, I read just about anywhere, regardless of the noise level or confusion. When I am bored or waiting somewhere, I like to pull out a book.

I am looking forward to this class and knowledge I can gain.

Sincerely,
Rachel D.

Date: Mon Jan 13 2003
Author: Ron R
Subject: Introducing Ron R.

Hello, Classmates,

My name is Ronald R., but I prefer to be called Ron. After finishing my Associate in Applied Science majoring in Information Systems Technology last year, I thought I was going to be done with school for quite a while. Alas, an opportunity arose and now I'm attempting to achieve an Associate in Science majoring in Business Administration. My long-term goal is to get a Bachelor in Business Administration.

I have been working at the Children's Hospital of The Kings Daughters for 8 months now, in the information systems department. Pursuing a job at the Children's Hospital was probably the smartest career move I've ever made. Everything good that you hear about working for the Children's Hospital is true, extremely friendly people, excellent opportunities for advancement, clean, pleasant and professional working environment, and lots of perks. The Children's Hospital truly is a gem of Hampton Roads. My career goals are to get promoted to a network engineer. Once I complete my bachelor degree, I plan to move on to information technology management.

The reason why I'm taking this class online is simply for the sake of convenience. In my line of work, in which I have to support computer systems and network infrastructure equipment that are critical for the care of sick children, I must constantly be on call. With this in mind, I find it

easier to do these classes at home rather than in a classroom. Many times I've had to leave in the middle of class to go to work, and I always felt bad because it's highly disruptive to the class.

My earliest memory of writing was when **my mother would help me write my name over and over again so I would learn how to write each letter perfectly. I recall sitting in a small child sized table, with my older brother sitting on the other side making faces, trying to distract me. As far as reading, my earliest memory was when I was in the first grade, trying to put syllables together to form simple words.**

The kind of reading I do at work is **mostly technical**. Reading technical instructions manuals and white papers is sometimes pretty tough because they are filled with geek-talk and contain tons of acronyms. A large amount of writing that I do at work is also technical in nature because right now we are in the middle of a massive documentation standardization project, so a lot of our notes have to be written in a specific format.

I'll admit that reading and writing have been an interesting challenge for me. **English is actually the second language I learned, Spanish being the first.** I was extremely lucky though; while growing up, my parents enrolled me in a private school that taught as much English as they did Spanish. This greatly helped me when I came to the United States at age nine because I at least had the basic fundamentals of English language and grammar.

Since right now I'm very focused on my career, what I end up reading the most are computer related literature like magazines, journals and white papers. The articles that I find the most fascinating are the ones relating to Microsoft products, information security, networking technologies, and technology business management.

I hope everyone has a great semester, and **I look forward to collaborating** with some of you!

Sincerely,
Ron R.

Date: Mon Jan 13 2003
Author: Genesis N.
Subject: Introducing Genesis N.

Hi everyone!

My name is Genesis Nemier, but most people call me Genny. I am **18 years old and a senior in high school. I decided that I wanted to get ahead of the game and take a few college classes early. Last semester I took English 111, this semester I decided to take two classes. Due to my busy schedule, with work and high school, I could only attend one class inside a classroom. I felt an online course would be a perfect way for me to take English 112 without having to actually "go to class". It makes it so convenient to do my work from home.**

I plan to major in Business Administration. I am interested in the management aspect of it and would possibly like to become an office manager. I have set many goals for myself. While I am attending Tidewater Community College, I would like to achieve the honor roll. I eventually plan to transfer to Virginian Wesleyan or William & Mary. Right now, I work at an auction realty company. I create information packages and do other clerical work. It is interesting to learn about real estate, but I would really love to be a part of an advertising company.

I love working on the computer, which is one of the main reasons that I decided to take an online course. This is only my second class at TCC, so I am looking forward to experiencing the online method. I decided on English 112 because it is something I will definitely need to graduate. Although school is "fun", I enjoy going out in my off time. I love movies, music, and shopping. I also love spending time with my boyfriend, whom I have been dating for the past two years. Even though I am still attending high school, I can already tell that I will like TCC better. College is definitely a different world compared to high school. The main thing that impressed me so much in my previous class was all of the friendly people.

In high school, I have to read and write all of the time, but my earliest memories of reading are from when I was little. My mom would take me to the library and let me pick out a stack of books. Then we would go home and read them together. **I also began to like writing at a young age. I loved to write song lyrics, poems, and I even tried to write my own books. Although, I have many unfinished novels (most of which I only have the first chapter complete), I still enjoy writing them.** Unfortunately, at my work, the only reading and writing I do is boring. I mostly read appraisals of different properties and then try to describe them in an interesting way. It is challenging to me to read this boring information and transform it into an exciting description that would make the property seem worth buying. Reading and writing for me can also be a way to relax or let my feelings out on paper. I enjoy reading romance and mystery novels. I also like some types of poetry, but I would rather write poetry than read it. Most of the time, I read and write in the comfort of my own room. My room is a place where I can sit down and be alone, which makes it easier to concentrate.

All in all, I am looking forward to a great semester. I wish everyone the best of luck!

Sincerely,
Genesis N.