What is your passion?

What drives you? What inspires you? What makes you feel alive? For the next few weeks, you are going to write and revise a narrative essay in which you share your passion. Your passion may be your art, or it may be something else that is important in your life. No matter what you choose to explore, you will work on developing language and writing skills that will allow you to tell your story and engage your reader. At the end of the writing process, you will have written a well-crafted essay, and you will share your passion with your classmates. You can choose to share your writing or you can demonstrate your passion.

Essential Questions: What is your passion? How have your life experiences contributed to what you are passionate about today?

There will be multiple stages to this writing project:

❖ Pre-writing
❖ Drafting
❖ Revising
❖ Editing
❖ Sharing your work

Additional Skills Practiced:

❖ You will be practicing grammar skills, and we will have a quiz on the grammar we have studied near the end of the unit.
❖ You will be developing your descriptive writing skills by looking at examples and then practicing in your Do Now notebook.
❖ You will practice peer review by reading the writing of your peers and providing feedback to one another.

Your final product will be at least 1.5 pages double spaced, 12 pt. font (We will go over MLA formatting together)

Grading Breakdown:
All of your in-class writing, homework, drafting, editing, and participation will be worth 200 points
Your grammar quiz will be worth 100 points
Your final draft, turned in with all edits, and your in-class sharing, will be worth 400 points
** This is a summative assessment, and will be eligible for resubmission as outlined in the syllabus. **
What is your passion?

The pre-writing process begins with you generating ideas that you may write about for your paper. Below, there are some questions to help you begin thinking about what your passion is, when you developed your passion, and why it matters. You always want your writing to have a purpose. You want to answer the question, “So what?” Why does this matter? What do you hope to do with your passion in the future?

What do you believe in? What do you love to do? What inspires you? Why are you here? Write down ideas for the next two minutes.

What feelings do you have associated with these things? Just list feelings. Write down ideas for the next two minutes.

What memories do you have associated with what you wrote down? Think of snapshots in your mind. Write down ideas for the next three minutes.

Who do you associate with these memories? Describe them using descriptive details. Write down ideas for the next three minutes.

Where do you see yourself in the future? List places, states of mind, situations… there is no wrong answer. Write down ideas for the next three minutes.

Now look at what you’ve written. In some way, connect things you wrote down that seem to be connected. What do you find? Is there a particular moment that is connected to a person and your inspiration? Look for the connected ideas. Do this for three minutes.

Do you see patterns? Turn & Talk. Do you have a story to tell?
Strong Narrative Beginnings:

“Not for the first time, an argument had broken out over breakfast at number four, Privet Drive. Mr. Vernon Dursley had been woken in the early hours of the morning by a loud, hooting noise from his nephew Harry’s room.

‘Third time this week!’ he roared across the table. ‘If you can’t control that owl, it’ll have to go!’

Harry tried yet again to explain.

‘She’s bored,’ he said. ‘She’s used to flying around outside. If I could just let her out at night-‘

‘Do I look stupid?’ snarled Uncle Vernon, a bit of fried egg dangling from his bushy mustache. ‘I know what’ll happen if that owl’s let out.’”

-Opening to The Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

“...there must be a beginning to any tale; and the story of my sojourn amongst the wolves begins properly in Granny’s bathroom...One hot summer day I was meandering aimlessly beside a little local creek when I came upon a stagnant pool. In the bottom, and only just covered with green scum, three catfish lay gasping out their lives...I was so impressed by their stubborn refusal to accept their fate that I found a tin can...I was driven to ‘finding temporary lodging for them in Granny’s toilet.”

-Excerpt from Farley Mowat’s Never Cry Wolf