Choose one of the following prompts from which to write an essay recounting an experience from your life. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, and formatted with one inch margins. Essays should be 800-1200 words. Remember that the point of a personal essay is not just to portray events that were meaningful to you, but also to make them universally relatable and thus more interesting to the reader. Recount your personal experience, and then reflect on it to make a broader argument. Please use the MLA general guide for formatting reference.

1. In “A Letter to My Mother That She Will Never Read” Vuong creates a stunning portrait of the complicated relationship he had with his mom as a child. Create a similar portrait of a meaningful relationship in your life. How has it changed? How has it influenced you? Was it a positive or negative relationship, and were its effects positive or negative?

2. Do you feel as if you are yourself on social media, or do you affect a “persona”? Do you see a difference? Has your relationship to social media changed along with your perception of yourself? How do you reflect that in your profile?

3. In “On Dumpster Diving,” Lars Eighner outlines an unexpected and intricate ethical code that he follows in scavenging that ranges from his avoiding “diving” into personal trash cans to protect privacy to setting aside valuable items he can’t use for scavengers to find after him. Describe a facet of your life in which you have developed and implemented an ethical or moral code. What are the rules? How did you develop them? For example: how quickly and in what order do you respond to text / social media messages? Do you vote, and if not why, and if so, how do you decide which candidates to vote for? Be sure your topic is specific enough that you can describe it fully in 1200 words.

4. Rewrite the essay you drafted in class last week: Describe your experience with a memorable food from your childhood. How does this food connect you to or alienate you from your family, culture, or heritage?